

# Newsletter

## THE FAITH HERALD

September 2023



### FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

FLC is a family of God built on love: worshipping, welcoming, learning, and serving in Christ's name. All are welcome.

#### SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:30 AM

In Person: 171 Lewis LN  
Hamilton, MT 59840

Live Stream: YouTube @  
[www.faithlutheranhamilton.org](http://www.faithlutheranhamilton.org)  
or  
Facebook @  
Friends of Faith Lutheran



#### CONNECT WITH US

[www.faithlutheranhamilton.org](http://www.faithlutheranhamilton.org)  
[faithlutheran59840@gmail.com](mailto:faithlutheran59840@gmail.com)  
(406) 363-2964

#### Pastor Paul Anderson

[flchamilton.pastorpaul@gmail.com](mailto:flchamilton.pastorpaul@gmail.com)  
(406) 844-1120

#### FLC Office Hours

Monday-Friday 9 am-1 pm  
[faithlutheran59840@gmail.com](mailto:faithlutheran59840@gmail.com)  
(406) 363-2964

#### The Faith Herald

The newsletter is always available online @ [www.faithlutheran59840.org](http://www.faithlutheran59840.org) under "Calendars and Newsletters," and on the table in the FLC Narthex.

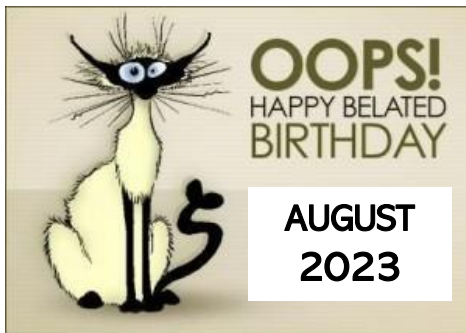
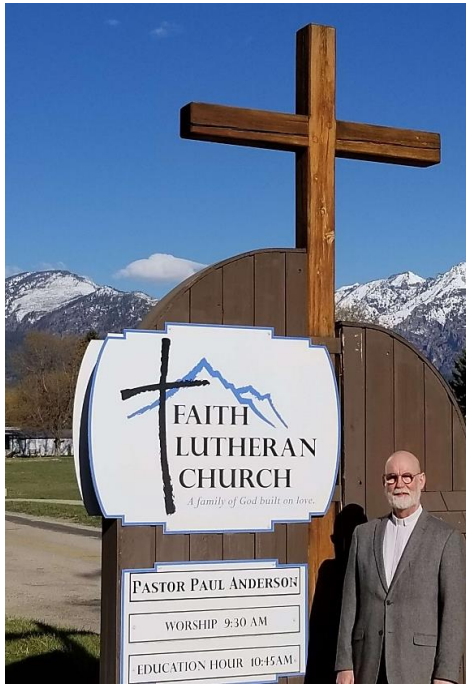
Please let the church office know how you would like to receive The Faith Herald newsletter.

- Email
- Church Mailbox
- Mail

Publication for the following month's Faith Herald begins on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

You may submit content to: [faithlutheran59840@gmail.com](mailto:faithlutheran59840@gmail.com)

# PASTOR'S PONDERINGS



Dean D.  
Nathan A.  
Gwen A.  
Quoia A.  
Kasondra G.  
Troy H.  
Robin B.  
Al M.  
Lowell B.  
Eli H.  
Ginny R.  
Rick B.  
Carl R.  
Lucas F.  
Ron H.  
Linda B.

One of my “Verse & Voice” devotionals seems appropriate as we head into September and Celebrate the ECLA’s “God’s Work Our Hands Sunday” on Sunday September 10th. The devotional reads as follows:

**Verse:** For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live—Ezekiel 18:32

**Voice:** I am very much a proponent of that sort of Augustinian theology that says the Lord has no other hands but ours and no other feet but ours. I think that’s the message the white church needs to hear, too: that thoughts and prayers are not enough, that it will take our hands and our feet joining in with the will of God. Rev Julian Armand Cook

**Prayer:** Lord who delights in life, we lament those who have lost their lives due to terrorism. May we be a people who do more than pray but who use our hands and feet to bring life to the word.

From August’s addition of “Living Lutheran” Angela T Khabeb writes, “...If we say we are followers of Christ, putting our faith into action isn’t optional. Yet, siblings of the faith, this is not a competition. This is not a rivalry between our so-called traditional worship on Sunday mornings versus what we know as outreach or justice work. When you and I move from the pews to the public square and then back to the pews, we are reflections the beauty of God’s grace by highlighting the hallowed whisper veil between the sacred and secular, thereby keeping the church relevant today... I think of it this way: when we receive the body of Christ, the Eucharist, we receive what we are—the body of Christ. Jesus’ real presence comes to us in simple grapes and wheat. Beloveds, please know that doing God’s work with our hands is more than simple actors of kindness. Rather, in some small way, it’s a sign of Christ’s real presence in the world, thereby hastening the manifestation of the Beloved Community. Let the church say, Amen!”

Partners in sharing God’s grace,  
Pastor Paul



**SEPTEMBER 2023**

Terri B.	Tanner H.	Finn D.	Robert S.	Barbara H.	
Emma M.	John T.	Heather K.	Eric L.	Jack D.	David B.
Curtis F.	Carolyn L.	Jim O.	Quinn L.	Helen F.	Paul W.
Wanda H.					

# COUNCIL CORNER

By Jacque VanDenburg



**Walking on Water: Navigating Faith and Grace as a New School Year Begins**

Dear Beloved Members of Faith Lutheran Church,

Grace and peace be with you all in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As we stand on the cusp of fall and a new school year, let us draw inspiration and strength from the timeless wisdom of Scripture. In Matthew 14:22-33, we encounter this powerful lesson in faith and grace – the account of Peter walking on water. We have been learning this message over the past several weeks and I keep coming back to it.

This story finds Jesus' disciples grappling with a stormy sea on the Galilean waters. Amidst the tumult, they glimpse Jesus walking towards them, defying the waves. Filled with a mix of awe and uncertainty, Peter calls out to Jesus and steps out of the boat to meet Him on the water. For a fleeting moment, Peter transcends natural laws, his unwavering gaze fixed on Christ. Yet, as he shifts his focus to the raging winds and crashing waves, fear takes hold, and he begins to sink.

This story serves as a reminder of the significance of faith and the importance of keeping our eyes firmly fixed on Christ, especially during life's storms. As we embark on the fall and a new school year, with its challenges and uncertainties, our faith can be our anchor, lifting us above the waves of doubt and apprehension. Just as Jesus reached out His hand to save Peter, He is ever ready to raise us up when our faith falters.

Grace shines brilliantly as well in this story. Despite Peter's faltering faith, Jesus does not condemn him; rather, He extends His hand and rescues him. This mirrors the boundless grace God extends to us, especially in moments of weakness and doubt.

As we get ready for the change of a new season, let us approach the challenges with faith, fully aware that our Savior walks beside us. Let's fix our gaze on Jesus, our unshakable foundation, even when the storms threaten to overwhelm us. May we always remember that His grace surpasses our shortcomings, always ready to lift us and guide us back onto the path of faith.

In the embrace of His grace,  
Jacque VanDenburg, Council President



The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck barbeque held on July 30<sup>th</sup> was well attended. Chased indoors by hot weather, the picnickers enjoyed one another's company in the cool comfort of the fellowship hall. Our next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday event will be held in October. Watch the website and Faith Herald for details.

## FLC COUNCIL MEMBERS:

President/Convener:  
Jacque VanDenburg

Discipleship: Deb Cathey

Fellowship/Hospitality: Susan Wetzsteon

Finance: Sandy Russ

Communication: Colleen Southwick

Outreach: Rick Brown

Property/Grounds: John Marten

Worship: Amber Richardson

## FLC STAFF:

Pastor: Paul Anderson

Office Secretary: Jennifer Larson

Bookkeeper: Heather Wintergerst

Custodian: Rick Brown

*You may reach out to council members and staff members by calling: (406) 363-2964 or emailing:*

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

*If you would like to look at the Faith Lutheran Church Financial Statement, please email the Steward of Finance, Sandy Russ:*  
[flchamilton.finsec@gmail.org](mailto:flchamilton.finsec@gmail.org)





# SERVING



## FLC SHOWER MINISTRY

Our church offers showers on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am-11:30 am for those that don't have access to shower facilities. FLC provided 19 showers in July and over 53 in August. We have given out about a dozen "Shower Kits" made by FLC's Naomi Circle, and numerous towels and wash cloths. You can help by donating laundered towels and washcloths (gently used is great), and all your extra travel toiletries. You are welcome to drop off any donations to the office. This ministry is so very appreciated as FLC is currently the only place offering free showers to our fellow brothers and sisters.

## PENNIES FOR HAVEN HOUSE

With the high price of groceries, Haven House has had an increase of clients accessing our food bank in Hamilton. Luckily our community has been so very generous in helping to keep our shelves stocked. Thank you to those who constantly donate items and also to those who have been dropping in pennies and dollars in the "Pennies for Haven House" container located back by the office. It was recently emptied, and we counted a whopping \$214. to be donated to Haven House. Thank you all for your generosity now and for all future donations. Your generosity is so appreciated.

Jan Serfass, Haven House volunteer



## FLC MINI PANTRY

Check out the mini pantry located to the right of the front doors as you exit the church. This pantry helps support the Shower Ministry by providing "grab and go" nourishment to the ministry's participants. Favorite items include capri sun, individual fruit cups, SpaghettiOs, beef stew, canned meats, meat & cheese sticks. There is also a request list by the cupboard to help us provide preferred items. If you would like to donate to the Mini Pantry, bring items to the church office. The intention is to offer foods that can be easily eaten and provide something to eat for the day, as our participants do not have the space to store groceries. The participants express delight and gratitude upon discovering the contents of the cupboard.

## SHELTER

In July, Faith Lutheran Church hosted Pr. Joe Iverson (of Zion Lutheran Church in Galesville, WI) and his family for 2 nights as they camp from coast to coast for Pr. Joe's sabbatical. The family of 5 literally pitched their tent in the FLC fellowship hall and found peaceful refuge. FLC is so much more than a building. If you want to follow the Iverson family, you can find them on Facebook: Coast 2 Coast Ministry Adventure.

## FLC QUILTERS

Faith Lutheran Church Quilters not only thoughtfully and lovingly created 8 quilts for our 2023 High School graduates; they also made 106 quilts for Lutheran World Relief, and 12 for the Salvation Army. Their hands wrap us up in warmth and kindness.

# COMING SOON ...

## FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH'S ANNUAL MEETING

It may seem early but September marks six months before Faith's annual meeting. This meeting is the time we formally reassess the future of our church along with electing Stewards of our leadership council. There are three stewardship positions (Steward of Finance, Steward of Discipleship/Education, Steward of Property & Grounds) and the President/Convener position that will be up for renewal at the February meeting. The Nominating Committee will soon meet to begin the process of seeking individuals to fill these positions. If you have interest in any of these positions and would like more information about them, please contact the church office or one of the Nominating Committee later in September after their first meeting.

Join us as we support each other living with grief, beginning Thursday, September 14th.

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month.**

**6 pm at Faith Lutheran Church**

**OR** if you want to talk one on one, call Cory.

For more information contact Cory Keith at: 406-375-5434 or [coreenkeith@gmail.com](mailto:coreenkeith@gmail.com)

Seekers  
Of  
Solace  
S.O.S

You are not alone!

## BITTERROOT VALLEY YOUTH CHOIR

The Bitterroot Valley Chorus is looking for young singers grades 4 through 8. No fee for participation.

**1<sup>st</sup> rehearsal is Thursday, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> at the Hamilton High School Choir Room from 3:45-5 pm. Parent meeting will follow.**

For more information, please contact Amy Kuebler at: 605-939-9330 or [youth@bitterrootvalleychorus.org](mailto:youth@bitterrootvalleychorus.org)

## COMMUNITY MEALS

September marks the beginning of the school year and the beginning of the Community Meals season. Meals will begin the week of September 11th. Faith will again be serving the meal the **4th Tuesday of the month**. Volunteers to help prepare and serve the meal on the 4th Tuesdays are welcomed and always appreciated! (Linda Beyer is the contact person 406-207-3471)

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

The Operation Christmas Child (OCC) shoeboxes are a wonderfully joyous way to spread the story of Jesus to children around the world. Faith Lutheran has graciously been a part this effort for many years. Our Packing Party is the biggest way we do this. Ways you can help make the OCC Packing Party a success is to think of and maybe purchase a "WOW" item (special toy, clothing item, game, etc.) for one or more shoebox(es) or tuck away \$10 (or more) to help ship a shoebox or purchase extra school supplies (still needed are pens, pencils, spiral notebooks, bars of soap) or volunteer to set up the packing line or work at the local collection center (see Linda Beyer for these ideas). A great way to learn more about the whole program is to get online and visit [samaritanspurse.org/occ](http://samaritanspurse.org/occ).



Men's Bereavement  
Breakfast Every 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Thursday at 9 am in  
FLC's Fellowship Hall.

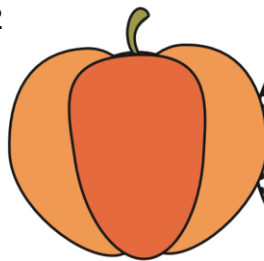
# September

## Faith Lutheran Church

# 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Worship 9:30 am	4 Labor Day Office Closed	5 Weight Watchers 3 & 5:30 pm	6 Quilters 9 am-noon	7	8	9
10 Worship 9:30 am Council Mtg. after Worship	11 Weight Watchers 3 & 5:30 pm	12	13	14 S.O.S. 6 pm	15	16
17 Worship 9:30 am	18 Weight Watchers 3 & 5:30 pm	19 Bitterroot Chorus Board Mtg. 7 pm	20 Quilters 9 am-noon Newsletter Publication Begins	21 Men's Breakfast 9 am	22	23
24 Worship 9:30 am	25 Weight Watchers 3 & 5:30 pm	26 Community Meal Prep 1 pm Serve 5 pm	27	28 S.O.S. 6 pm	29	30

Oct. 14, 2023 For more  
info. 406-752-6602



406.752.6602 | office@flbc.net

### 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

# CREATED

**TO BE MYLE**  
the tAble Young Adult Gathering

The 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering, the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE), the tAble (Youth with Disabilities Gathering) and the first ever Young Adult Gathering will be in New Orleans!

Youth + Young Adult Gatherings: July 16-20, 2024

MYLE + tAble: July 13-16, 2024

Check it out at: [gathering@elca.org](mailto:gathering@elca.org)

Or call: 888.411.3522

Let's get ready  
to go Faith  
Lutheran Church!