

Newsletter

THE FAITH HERALD

November 2023



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

FLC is a family of God built on love: worshiping, 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
or
Facebook @
Friends of Faith Lutheran

CONNECT WITH US
www.faithlutheranhamilton.org
faithlutheran59840@gmail.com
(406) 363-2964

Pastor Paul Anderson

flchamilton.pastorpaul@gmail.com
(406) 844-1120

FLC Office Hours

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

Please double check to make sure you have the correct email address for the office.

The Faith Herald

The newsletter is always available online @ 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 20th of each month. You may submit content to: faithlutheran59840@gmail.com



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

NOVEMBER 2023

Tom G.
Hannah P.
John S.
Justin G.
Barbara D.
Peggy T.
Skeet M.
Sawyer D.
Charley L.
Erika D.
Mia M.
Amanda B.
Mark C.
Colter M.
Grayden B.
Jered D.
Abigail W.
Madi F.
Ann W.



Lutheran
Disaster Response

Friends,

In response to the escalating violence in and around Gaza, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has extended a [letter of support](#) to Bishop Sani-Ibrahim Azar of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. In it she pledges to accompany and support the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and its ministries. Images in the news are heartbreaking, and we extend our prayers to all those who have lost loved ones and are living in fear and uncertainty.

The ELCA has long-standing relationships with many partners in the region, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and Augusta Victoria Hospital, which is operated by the Lutheran World Federation.

The most pressing needs that Lutheran Disaster Response and our partners can address are food, water and medical supplies. Support for hospitals will be another priority as the need for medical assistance continues to grow. Additionally, Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Arab and Middle Eastern Ministries desk to provide interfaith emotional and spiritual care support for communities in the United States.

Bishop Eaton's letter also calls us to action:

"I encourage the people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to unite in prayer for the families of innocent civilians whose lives were lost, as well as pray for healing for all the injured, fearful and traumatized."

Lutheran Disaster Response has a history of providing support for our partners and anticipates answering calls for assistance when the time comes. Gifts to ["Middle East Crisis"](#) will be used to address humanitarian needs in the region. Above all, we pray for peace. [Give now](#)

With gratitude,

The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response Fund
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

COUNCIL CORNER

By Rick Brown



Dear Faith family:

Grace and Peace to you dear family! Diversity...we talk a lot about diversity these days, especially in welcoming people to church. Faith Lutheran Hamilton is one of the most welcoming congregations I have ever interacted with, in fact the welcome my family received twenty-three years ago, (and Lutheran theology), was the reason I committed to becoming a member. Relationships formed with those welcoming folks empowered me to become involved with serving on the council. Over those two decades, I have laughed, wept, argued, and yes even walked away and returned to the council. The thing is, though, in those decades the council basically consists of the same basic group of people just changing council positions. We finish a turn as Steward of Discipleship, for example, then trade Discipleship for Outreach, while other council members trade out and keep serving in a similar manner. Over the decades we are now at a pool of around ten people who always serve, year after year, no matter what, until they simply burn out and say no more. Burnout is bad but it isn't the only problem. New people bring new ideas to the table. New people don't get caught up in 'we always do it this way'. Diversity at the council table is vital, and Faith Lutheran Hamilton is now at a real crossroads. What will Faith look like next year, in five years? What can we offer our neighborhood, our town, our state and world? How can we better serve our congregation? We old timers gather and plug along, we dream and hope and plan and do the business of the church as best we can, and we pray for new blood, for new enthusiastic ideas and energy to apply to our future planning. The nominating committee will soon be reaching out to fill vacancies on the council for 2024. Prayerfully consider saying yes to serving, we need diversity!

Thank you and God Bless

Rick Brown -Steward of Outreach

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

*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*



SERVING



FLC Shower Ministry & Mini Pantry

Shower services are available Tue. & Thurs. from 9 am-11:30 am. FLC provided 29 showers in October, and the Mini Pantry continues to be very popular. Donations are always welcome and appreciated. Please drop them off at the FLC office.

FLC COUNCIL STEWARD POSITIONS

The Nominating Committee is actively seeking candidates to fill 3 Steward positions on the Church Council along with the President /Convenor. The steward openings are Finance, Discipleship/Education, and Property & Grounds. Please take a minute to look over the job descriptions for the positions posted on the Council bulletin board at the beginning of the long hallway if you are interested in a position or in being part of a support committee for each steward. The names of the Nominating Committee members are also there so you can seek one out for further information or comments.

Community Meals

Many years we do not serve a meal in November as our day falls during the Thanksgiving holiday week. However, the 4th Tuesday falls after Thanksgiving this year so we will be preparing and serving a meal on November 28th. Volunteers are always appreciated to help us prepare the food in the Faith Kitchen at 1 pm that day and to serve the food at the Cornerstone Bible Church on Fairgrounds Rd from 4:45 till a little after 6 pm. If you are interested in helping, please contact the meal coordinator Linda Beyer (406-207-3471).

Golden Group-Scarf Making

Several people have asked if we were going to make fleece scarves again as it was a fun project and produced many beautiful, warm scarves for our community. Jan Serfass has again volunteered to lead the project and requested Thrivent Action Team funding to purchase fleece. **Wednesday, November 29th** is the day it's scheduled, and we'll **start at 10 am** and work until noonish. Pizza will be provided for lunch and if you are able to bring a salad or dessert that would add to the fellowship. No experience needed. Just bring scissors if you have a good pair.



Bitter Root Empty Bowls Art feeds the body and the soul.

Tickets are \$30 Sat. November 4th, 2023
11:00 am to 2:00 pm

St. Francis Pastoral Life Center
411 S. 5th St. Hamilton, MT

-Empty Bowls is an international project founded in 1990 to fight hunger and to advocate the arts and art education. Each event is personalized and developed independently at the community level. This year Clay Works! In the Bitterroot Co-op has chosen to host Bitterroot Empty Bowls with assistance provided by The Bitter Root Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. (RC&D) 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. -For a \$30 donation, you will receive a simple meal of delicious soup and bread donated by local restaurants and bakeries and a handmade bowl lovingly crafted by local potters and members of Clay Works! To take home as a reminder of the many "empty bowls" in the Bitterroot Valley. -Proceeds from this event will go to local food banks and Community Meals to help reduce hunger and food insecurity in the Bitterroot.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD-FAITH'S SHOEBOX PACKING SCHEDULE

November 7-12—Drop-In Packing Line Available

Our goal is to pack at least 100 boxes this year.

Drop-in at the church during business hours and pack one or more shoeboxes.

November 12th -Packing Party Sunday

Food, Fellowship, and Packing Shoeboxes after the church service.

November 13-20—Collection Week

Shoeboxes are collected at Cornerstone Church and packed into larger shipping boxes to begin their journey to children around the world.

Please remember \$10 per box is requested for shipping

Checks can be made out to Faith Lutheran (designate for OCC) then one check will be written and sent once the boxes are filled & collected...or cash or checks can be added to the shoeboxes in an OCC envelope as the last item.

Another Option! *** Pack a Box On-line!

Pack a shoebox anytime of the year for \$25 (includes the filter items and shipping).

go to <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/>

It's easy and you can choose which suggested items to include in the box.

(it does require a credit card)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Linda Beyer 406-207-3471.

AED (Automated External Defibrillator)

Thanks to Michael Huus, owner of Best Fire Equipment & Supply (PO Box 37 Hamilton), Faith Lutheran Church has a brand new AED!!! It is located right outside of the office and easy to use.

Huge shout-out to Mr. Huus for generously donating and installing this lifesaving equipment to FLC.

(valued at \$1,500)

FLC Can Recycling

Faith Lutheran is no longer collecting cans for recycling. Carl Russ diligently and quietly "took care" of the cans that were brought to the church, and we continue to feel his absence. If you would like to "pick up the torch" and collect cans for recycling here at FLC, please contact Pr. Paul or let the office know.

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

Summer 2023 by the Numbers!* 7 weeks of regular FLBC Summer Camp for youth, families, and groups + 2 additional weeks of serving Intermountain Residential and Montana Youth Diabetes Alliance! 815 Youth, on site campers (weeklong, day campers and partial week campers) 191 Glacier Wilderness campers 154 Week-Long Family campers & Grand campers 1065 Summer Retreat guests (June, July and August) 18 weeks of Day Camps in congregations, with over 380 campers! 50 Incredible adult volunteers 58 Summer staff from 13 different states and 3 countries joined our 12 year-round staff to make 1 AWESOME TEAM!



“Where does our Money go?”

Dave Scholten
Synod Treasurer

A portion of the operating budget of nearly every ELCA church goes to fund the work and mission of its Synod. Why is this money sent to the Synod? What does this money do? What is this money for? The Montana Synod is made up of more than 120 churches spread out over 390,000 square miles across Montana and northern Wyoming. The Synod includes 173 Pastors, 12 Deacons, 134 Lay Pastoral Associates and 30,700 baptized members. The Synod works to connect, equip, and serve these people and their communities.

As people of faith, we know we are part of a body and community. A body works best when all its members are connected. A key role of the Synod staff, Council, and volunteers is **Connecting** the churches and pastors and members with one another and toward a common mission. We can do more together than we can apart. We are church together in supporting one another in bringing God’s love to Montana, northern Wyoming and the world. The Synod acts as a bridge between the pastors and churches, as well as a bridge to the ELCA Churchwide (the administrative body encompassing 65 Synods and 10,000 ELCA churches in the US) and the larger world throughout relationships with companion Synods in Bolivia and the Cape Orange Diocese in Africa. Last year, 37% of the Synod’s budget was up-streamed to the work and mission of the ELCA Churchwide.

The stated vision of the Montana Synod is “**Equipping** for the Ministry of the Gospel”. More than one-third of the Synod’s budget focuses on providing tools, skills, “equipment” for pastors, LPA’s, and others to carry out the work of God’s church. This equipment includes leadership training, the LPA program, coaching, educational opportunities, and technological support, as well as the Northern Rockies Institute of Theology (NRIT).

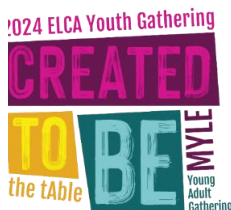
The money we send to the Montana Synod is also used in **Serving** our communities, our state, and the world. The Synod provides funds to help with campus ministries at MSU and UM, Freedom in Christ Prison Ministry, the Rocky Boy ministry, PLTS and Lutheran Seminaries, Disaster Relief, and others. The work and ministries of the Montana Synod allow us to be God’s people in so many more places and ways than we could ever be on our own.

So, where does the money go? It goes to **connect, equip, and serve**. As the current Montana Synod treasurer, I would like to thank all of you for your continuing generosity in support of the Synod. Because of you people are being equipped for ministry across this state, the church is connected across this country, and lives are changed across this world.

Gratefully, Dave Scholten

https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/ELCA_Where_Your_Offering_Goes.pdf

Remember we "Fall Back" in the Fall by turning our clocks back 1 hour before bed on Sat., Nov. 4th as the return to Standard Time takes place during the wee hours of Sun., Nov. 5th.



Youth + Young Adult Gatherings:
 July 16-20, 2024
MYLE + tAble: July 13-16, 2024
 Check it out at: gathering@elca.org
 Or call: 888.411.3522

November

Faith Lutheran Church

2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Quilters 9 am-noon	2	3	4
5 All Saints' Sunday Worship 9:30 am (time change)	6 WW 3 & 5:30 pm	7 A Cappella 7-9pm	8	9	10	11
12 Worship 9:30 am OCC Packing Party after Worship	13 WW 3 & 5:30 pm	14 A Cappella 7-9 pm	15 Quilters 9 am-noon	16 Men's Breakfast 9 am Friends @ Faith Hang-Out 4-6 pm	17	18
19 Worship 9:30 am	20 WW 3 & 5:30 pm Newsletter Publication Begins	21 Bitterroot Chorus Board Mtg. 7 pm A Cappella 7-9 pm	22	23	24	25
26 Worship 9:30 am	27 WW 3 & 5:30 pm	28 Community Meal Prep. @ 1 pm Serve @ 5 pm A Cappella 7-9 pm	29 Golden Group Scarf Making 10 am-noon Quilters 9 am-noon	30	<p>For more info. on What's Up at FLC and details about events on the calendar, call Jenny in the office @ 406.363.2964</p>	