

Newsletter

THE FAITH HERALD

December 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
or
facebook @
Friends of Faith Lutheran

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

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flchamilton.pastorpaul@gmail.com
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FLC Office Hours
Monday-Friday 9 am-1 pm
faithlutheran59840@gmail.com
(406) 363-2964

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



DECEMBER 2023

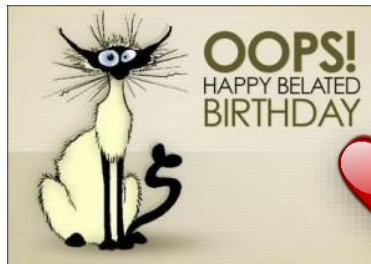
Mary S.
Vicki S.
Steve S.
Holly M.
Lila F.
Jack W.
Sandy R.
Elaina L.
Cole H.
John C.
Peggy T.
Sandy D.
Kristina McC.
Grace R.
Emment H.
Dan M.
Emmalee P.
Susan P.

“In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”- John 1:4-5. In this time of the growing darkness of our days and the growing light of Christ of Advent, we at Faith know and focus on how God is with us in both light and darkness.

So, I offer you this blessing, “For Light” by John O’Donohue, from his book, To Bless the Space Between Us.

“Light cannot see inside things. That is what the dark is for: Minding the interior, nurturing the draw of growth through places where death in its own way turns into life. In the glare of neon times, let our eyes not be worn by surfaces that shine with hunger made attractive. That our thoughts may be true light, finding their way into words which have the weight of shadow to hold the layers of truth. That we never place our trust in minds claimed by empty light, where one-sided certainties are driven by false desire. When we look into the heart, may our eyes have the kindness and reverence of candlelight. That the searching of our minds be equal to the oblique crevices and corners where the mystery continues to dwell, glimmering in fugitive light. When we are confined inside the dark house of suffering that moonlight might find a window. When we become false and lost that the severe noon-light would cast our shadow clear. When we love, that dawn-light would lighten our feet upon the waters. As we grow old, that twilight would illuminate treasure in fields of memory. And when we come to search for God, let us first be robed in night, put on the mind of morning to feel the rush of light spread slowly inside the color and stillness of a found world.”

Partners in sharing God’s grace,
Pastor Paul



NOVEMBER 2023
Yvette L.



COUNCIL CORNER

By Amber Richardson



“Once the little Christ child lay, cradled in a bed of hay, Long Ago on Christmas. Stranger bed a babe never found, wandering cattle stood around, Long Ago on Christmas.” Here we are getting ready to celebrate Jesus’ birth once again. All of the sights and sounds of Christmas can sometimes make it seem like maybe the true meaning has been forgotten. And to some maybe it has, but for me all of the hustle and bustle, lights, trees, Christmas programs, and gatherings with friends and families is a celebration, a birthday celebration.

If you haven’t had a chance to watch the animated movie “The Star” I highly recommend it. Although a cartoon, I think the writers and producers made it for adults. One of the last scenes is around the manger. There is a statement that is made that says (I am paraphrasing), “I think we will be celebrating this birth for thousands of years after tonight.” How amazing it is that we celebrate this holy event, this holy birthday of our Savior, Jesus.

So put up some lights, sing some carols, join us for service, and gather with friends and family and celebrate the birthday of Jesus!!!

Merry Christmas!!

-Amber Richardson, Steward of Worship

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 25+ showers in November. The Mini Pantry needs donations. Your generosity and "Grab-N-Go" items are very appreciated.

FLC Council Steward Positions

Our Church Council Stewards are the people who make decisions about our activities at church and in the community, our actual structural facility, and our church's direction in the future. Please take a moment as we approach Christmas to thank those who are currently on the Council and, also consider serving. Three Steward positions along with the President/Convenor are up for renewal at our February annual meeting. The steward openings are Finance, Discipleship/Education, and Property & Grounds. The duties of these positions are posted on the church bulletin board by the long hallway for you to look over. Individuals who will volunteer as support for each position are also helpful to each new Steward. If you have the time or talent, please let the Church Office know. (Nominating Committee: Helen Volden, Greg Houser, Ben Essary, Michelle Mendenall, Linda Beyer, and Rick Brown)

Worship Assistants

FLC wants YOU! Please consider signing up to be a worship assistant to help service flow smoothly. Easy, fun, and no experience required (we can show you the "ropes" if you have any questions). Sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex. Many Thanks!

Community Meals

Faith Lutheran will not be serving a meal in December as our day falls during Christmas week. Still there is always a concern for those who are food insecure in our community. If you would like to donate food items, they can be taken directly to local food banks or dropped off at the church in the Haven House tub or donate money directly to the MT Food Bank Network (5625 Expressway, Missoula, MT 59808-9071). MFBN can purchase more food per dollar in bulk quantities with monetary donations and these items are then dispersed among all food banks in our valley. For updates and more information or to donate online, check out the website at mfbn.org.

Serving is Serving No Matter How Big or How Small

Consider sharing your Time or Talents.

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, *for God loves a cheerful giver.* 2 Cor. 9:6-7

God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. 2 Cor. 9:8

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, *for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.* Heb. 13:16

-verses provided by Tim Wiersum

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Huge thanks to everyone who made this year's Operation Christmas Child Packing Line and Packing Party a great success. 150 boxes were packed and have started their journey to children around the world. Thank you to those who donated items to pack in the boxes, who donated money for box filler items and shipping, and those who gave of their time to help in the kitchen, to clean up afterwards, and to transport the boxes to the Collection Center so they could begin their journey. It takes all of us to make this happen each year! Thank You!

FLC WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Faith Lutheran Church will have a 5-week Women's Bible Study, beginning January 10th through February 7th. We will meet on Wednesdays at the church from 6-7:15 pm. Contact Brooke Kimzey with any questions (406.261.2545 or brookekinzey@yahoo.com).

FLC CHOIR

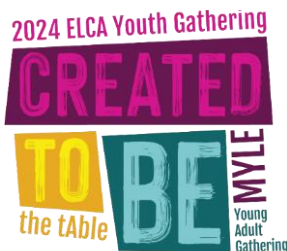
Faith Lutheran is getting a choir together! We're looking to do 4 or 5 Sundays in the year to start for 2024. We will be flexible about how the choir schedule is designed; we just want you to join if you're interested and like to sing! Please contact Brandi Williamson (206.291.7453 or brandi.n.mccoy@gmail.com).

ELCA Good Gifts Family Farm

Hey Faith Lutheran Church, let's get together and "Help a family break the cycle of hunger and poverty – for good. A cow, a couple goats, a dozen chicks, two pigs, farming tools, seeds and agricultural training can create a world of opportunity for a family living in poverty. With eggs, milk and meat to eat and sell, and tools and training to increase the harvest, this gift can make a big difference." -ELCA.org/goodgifts

*All of this for only \$750! If you can donate to this life-changing gift, please indicate "family farm" on your checks or envelope and drop off to the church office.

Contact Tim Wiersum with any questions (406.274.3325 or nymfshr4@outlook.com).



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



"Dear Lea, Sandy, Nancy, Lou, Virginia, Carolyn, Susan, Linda, Millie,

Thank you for the quilt. I am using it in my dorm room at Montana State University. It Means a lot to me.

-Owen Dunn"

December

Faith Lutheran Church

2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Worship 9:30 am Budget Q&A after Worship	4 WW 3 & 5:30 pm	5 A Cappella 7-9pm	6 Quilters 9 am-noon Evening Holden Service 7 pm	7	8	9
10 Worship 9:30 am Vote on proposed 2024 Budget after Worship	11 WW 3 & 5:30 pm	12 A Cappella 7-9 pm	13 Council Mtg. 5:30 pm Evening Holden Service 7 pm	14	15	16
17 Christmas Program Worship 9:30 am Blue Christmas Worship 7 pm	18 WW 3 & 5:30 pm	19 Bitterroot Chorus Board Mtg. 7 pm A Cappella 7-9 pm	20 Quilters 9 am-noon Evening Holden Service 7 pm	21 Men's Breakfast 9 am	22	23
24 Worship 9:30 am Candlelight Worship 4 pm & 7 pm	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS FLC OFFICE CLOSED Dec. 25-Jan. 1	26 WW 3 & 5:30 A Cappella 7-9 pm	27	28	28	29
30 Worship 9:30 am	31	Jan. 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR	Jan. 2 FLC office open 9 am-1 pm Quilters 9 am-noon			