

THE
FAITH HERALD
DEC. 2024-JAN. 2025 NEWSLETTER



MANY THOUSAND THANKS!

Thank you, Rick Brown, John Marten, Lans Richardson and Jacque VanDenburg for your leadership and messages during Pastor Paul's 3-month sabbatical! Faith Lutheran Church is blessed to have so many talented servants who made the church run smoothly while Pastor Paul was away. Again...Thank You for sharing your time and talents!

**FAITH LUTHERAN
CHURCH (FLC), 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

Pastor Paul Anderson

509-844-1120

fchamilton.pastorpaul@gmail.com

FLC Office Hours:

Mon. - Fri. 9 am-1 pm

Phone: 406-363-2964

Email:

faithlutheran59840@gmail.com

Website:

www.faithlutheranhamilton.org

Facebook: @ Friends of Faith
Lutheran



Pastor's Ponderings



Dear Friends and Members of FLC,

As we celebrate Advent, Christmas, and the New Year, I would like to share an excerpt from our Advent Christmas Devotional for this year.

As Advent begins Jeremiah 33:14-15 reads, “The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.”

The reflection for this text talks about peace lilies and how they look beautiful when you buy them because of their beautiful bloom. What people don't realize is that plant nurseries use gibberellic acid to force the peace lilies to bloom. But their beauty fades.

“In difficult times and in ordinary times, we often wonder what God is up to and when God will bring much-needed

newness to the struggles we face. It is tempting to want instant solutions to the problems in our lives and our world. But solutions that bring a quick bloom never last.

God offers something more profound than artificial answers to our real needs: a fulfillment of God's promises that lasts, the strong branch of justice and righteousness, the flower of peace. This cannot be forced by chemicals or manipulation or false promises. This comes through God's careful and patient work in our lives and in the world.”

Prayer: “O God, grant me patience to wait for all the good things you are doing through Christ Jesus in my life and in the world. Amen.” Good news, great joy: Devotions For Advent & Christmas 2024-2025.

As you celebrate the Christmas season and usher in the new year, make sure to pick up this Devotional that has wonderful pictures, and insightful readings and prayers in it. There are also Household Blessings and Prayers in the back of it for your family to enjoy during this Holiday season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

Partners in sharing God's grace, -Pastor Paul

COUNCIL CORNER

By Amber Richardson
Steward of Worship



“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. Want to help Celebrate? The Christmas Program is for the entire congregation. Want to share a Song? Read a poem? All are ways to help Celebrate the birth of our Lord. Join in this amazing 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

FAITH HOUSE

A VOTE of yes or no to sell Faith House will take place at a Special Congregational Meeting following the approval of the Final Budget on December 8th after worship.

FLC COUNCIL MEMBERS:

President/Convener:

Jacque VanDenburg

Communication: Colleen Southwick

Discipleship: Brooke Kimzey

Fellowship/Hospitality: Susan Wetzsteon

Finance: Dean Drake

Outreach: Rick Brown

Property/Grounds: Greg Houser

Worship: Amber Richardson

FLC STAFF:

Pastor: Paul Anderson

Office Secretary: Jennifer Larson

Bookkeeper: Heather Wintergerst
faithlutheran59840.financial@gmail.com

Custodian: Rick Brown

You may reach out to council 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, Dean Drake:
flchamilton.finsec@gmail.org

What's Up At FAITH



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Christmas Program will be **Sunday, December 15, 2024, at 9:30 am**. Please come and enjoy this special stress-free worship service. We are looking for readers and musicians to help share the true meaning of Christmas. If you or your kiddos would like to participate, please contact Amber Richardson or the church office. Scripts are available to make it easy for you to pick your part. Practice will take place at 8:30 am (before church) on Sunday, December 15th.

We are also asking people of all ages to write down their "God's Gifts to Me" on the blue half sheet (pick one up from the table in the narthex). They will be shared during the program. You may either read your "God's Gifts to Me" yourself or give your written testimony to Amber and someone else can read it for you. Sharing our lives creates ripples among us. You never know how your testimony may impact someone at just the right time.

COMMUNITY MEALS

Faith will not serve a meal in December as our day falls on Christmas Eve. However, as the church CM coordinator, I would like to thank all in our Faith family who have supplied, prepared, and served the food during the past year. Your generosity is a gift that provides sustenance and hope every time we serve a meal. May you have blessed Christmas with family and friends.

We are approaching Christmas and there is always a concern for those who are food insecure in our community. So, if you are filled with the spirit of Christmas and would like to donate food items, they can be taken directly to local food banks or dropped off in the Haven House tub at the church 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.

Tuesday, January 28th will be the next time we prepare a meal. Meal preparation will be at 1pm in the Faith kitchen as usual and serving will be from 5 – 6 pm at Cornerstone Church. If you have any questions, you can always check with Linda Beyer, the Community Meal Coordinator at 406-207-3471.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

The shoeboxes have begun their journey to spread Christmas joy! 155 were delivered to the local collection center where they were packed into larger shipping boxes and directed to a Processing Center. From there they will be shipped to children most likely in Central and South America but may also go to other areas of the world. Thank you to everyone who donated box items, packed boxes, donated money for shipping costs, and helped with set up and clean-up. You are all a testament that God's love lives in your hearts.



GOLDEN GROUP

The Golden Group (GG) was created to provide activities for those of the Faith Family who are fully or mostly retired and/or have free time to join in fun and fellowship. There hasn't been a planned activity since early Spring but as the cold months are upon us it may be time to plan a few. If you have ideas and are willing to spearhead an activity visit with Linda Beyer who will send out the details to those who have shared their contact info. Activities can be entertaining, informative, provide a service/need, or just be a time to enjoy food and/or fellowship. There are no real limitations. In fact, there may be a GG Wreath Making class being planned right now so watch for details in the days to come.

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Faith Lutheran Church is starting a monthly intergenerational opportunity for food, fellowship and faith study. Join us here at FLC on the last Sunday of each month from 5-7 pm starting in January! All are welcome, hope to see you for our first gathering on January 26, 2025!!!

For more information OR to help, contact Brooke Kimzey @ 406-261-2545.

SERVING ON THE COUNCIL

Please prayerfully consider serving as a Steward on the FLC Council. Opportunities are available. Visit with one of the Nominating Committee members for more information.

December

Faith Lutheran Church, ELCA



2024

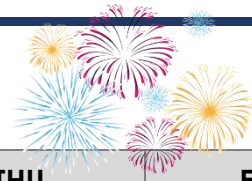
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Worship 9:30 am Budget Q&A after worship	2 Simple Way (WW) 3 & 5:30 pm	3	4 Quilting 9 am-noon Holden Prayer Service 7 pm	5	6	7
8 Worship 9:30 am Approve Budget & Vote on Faith House after worship Blue Christmas Service 7 pm	9 Simple Way (WW) 3 & 5:30 pm	10	11 Holden Prayer Service 7 pm	12	13	14
15 Worship 9:30 am Christmas Program	16 Simple Way (WW) 3 & 5:30 pm	17	18 Quilting 9 am-noon Holden Prayer Service 7 pm	19 No Men's Breakfast, see you in Jan.	20	21
22 Worship 9:30 am	23 Council Reports Due for Annual Report Simple Way (WW) 3 & 5:30 pm	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service(s) 4 PM & 7 PM Office Closed	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28
29 Worship 9:30 am Service of Lessons & Carols Undecorate After worship	30 Simple Way (WW) 3 & 5:30 pm Office Closed	31 New Year's Eve Office Closed	Jan. 1 New Year's Day Happy New Year! Office Closed	<div style="border: 2px solid purple; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>Save the Dates! VBS 2025 July 7-11, 2025</p> </div>		



Mary S.	2	Elaina L.	18	Emmalee P.	30
Vicki S.	4	Cole H.	20	Susan P.	13
Steve S.	7	John C.	21	Shirley H.	3
Bob M.	8	Peggy T.	22		
Holly M.	9	Sandy D.	26		
Lila F.	12	Grace R.	26		
Jack W.	13	Emment H.	28		
Sandy R.	17	Dan M.	29		

January

Faith Lutheran Church, ELCA



2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 New Year's Day Happy New Year! No Quilting Office Closed	2	3	4
5 Worship 9:30 am	6 Simple Way 3 & 5:30 pm	7	8	9	10	11
12 Worship 9:30 am	13 Simple Way 3 & 5:30 pm	14 Council Mtg. 6 pm	15 Quilting 9 am-noon	16 Men's Breakfast 9 am	17	18
19 Worship 9:30 am	20 Newsletter Publication Begins Simple Way 3 & 5:30 pm	21	22	23	24	25
26 Worship 9:30 am Family Faith Formation 5-7 pm	27 Simple Way 3 & 5:30 pm	28 Community Meal Prep. 1 pm, Serve 5 pm @ Cornerstone	29 Quilting 9 am-noon	30	31	

Save the Dates!
VBS 2025
July 7-11, 2025



- | | | | | | |
|-------------|---|------------|----|-------------|----|
| Amanda B. | 1 | Allie A. | 7 | Virginia K. | 17 |
| Shirley M. | 1 | Logan V. | 8 | Jerry M. | 21 |
| Bryce R. | 1 | Ginny W. | 8 | Wayne M. | 22 |
| Clairice B. | 3 | Kerry H. | 9 | John M. | 23 |
| Chris M.-S. | 3 | Gunnar L. | 10 | Susan W. | 23 |
| Lina G. | 6 | Joyce K. | 13 | Jennifer L. | 24 |
| Marlin L. | 6 | Nichole M. | 15 | Paul R. | 25 |
| Carol P. | 6 | Ron O. | 16 | Cheryl M. | 25 |
| | | | | Keegan W. | 29 |