

THE

# FAITH HERALD

February 2025 NEWSLETTER



## CARE PACKAGES FOR OUR "KIDS"

It is that time of year when Faith lets our college students know we are thinking of them. Please join us on Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> to fill some boxes with messages, treats and lots of love. Want to add a college student to the list?... Give the name and address to the office. If you would like to contribute a treat, please drop off non-perishable food items (or bring them on packing day). We are planning on 25-30 boxes. This is a wonderful tradition that our college students deeply appreciate!



## 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](http://www.faithlutheranhamilton.org)

or

facebook @

Friends of Faith Lutheran

## Pastor Paul Anderson

509-844-1120

[flchamilton.pastorpaul@gmail.com](mailto:flchamilton.pastorpaul@gmail.com)

### FLC Office Hours:

Mon. - Fri. 9 am-1 pm

Phone: 406-363-2964

### Email:

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

### Website:

[www.faithlutheranhamilton.org](http://www.faithlutheranhamilton.org)

facebook: @ Friends of Faith  
Lutheran



# P a s t o r ' s P o n d e r i n g s



February is the month of “Love” with Valentines Day coming up on the 14th. And, when thinking about love in the context of the church I like the hymn from the ELW #360, “Love Consecrates the Humblest Act,” verses one and three.

1. Love consecrates the humblest act and haloes mercy’s deeds; it sheds a benediction sweet and hallows human needs.

To be alive then, is to live the love of Jesus! Love is the heartbeat that pumps life throughout the church. A church that isn’t loving isn’t alive. People of God! We are alive! We are living the love of Jesus! In the years I’ve served, as your Pastor, here at FLC, I have seen the love of Jesus alive in you. As we faithfully pray for those in our lives, in our communities and in our world who need love in their life. As we gather to be filled with Jesus’ love through the gift of his body and blood and grow through learning opportunities. As we have named our fears and honored our hopes for our lives, for Faith Lutheran Church, for the world. As we have welcomed new people to our faith family and continue to care for each other in love.

2. Faith Lutheran Church is Alive! There is excitement and positive energy about the possibilities of the future as we continue living in the love of Jesus!

Thank you for your faithfulness, for the ways you live in love, for the ways you support the ministries of Faith Lutheran Church that spread this love to those who are most in need of receiving it. We would not be alive without each other nor without the love of God flowing in us and through us. Let’s continue to focus on the ways that we are alive, that we Live the Love, that God is at work in and through us.

Living the love of Jesus is the kind of love God calls us to offer to each other, our communities and our world this February. Let this love be our Valentine to everyone, showing the love God has for us in Jesus Christ by offering the same love to others.

3. Love serves and willingly stoops to serve; what Christ in love so true has freely done for one and all, let us now gladly do.

Partners in sharing God’s grace,  
Pastor Paul

# COUNCIL CORNER

February 2025



Dear Faith Family:

'It's not about religion, it's about relationship' Have you ever heard that? Faith Lutheran Hamilton is, on one hand, a small business with an operating budget of about \$290,000.00 a year. By God's grace and the sacrifice of those before us, our future as a small business for the foreseeable future seems secure financially. We can upgrade our infrastructure, improve our technology and have the resources to hire qualified staff. BUT, on the other hand, as one of our Conveners once said, 'we aren't a business, we're a church!'

As the Council, we open our meetings with prayer, we treat each other as brothers and sisters, respectfully but honestly sharing our thoughts as we steer this small business where our product is sharing God's Love through Jesus Christ with our faith family, our communities, local and beyond.

As a twenty-three-year member of Faith, I have served on Council nine times. Some of those years included hard decisions, heart-breaking times that brought painful change to our church family. Other years brought incredible joys, where miraculous things happened, new pastors, new members, new ideas on who we are as 'church'. Diversity happened, is happening, will continue to happen.

Our Council will help lead us as 'church' into a future where we can shine Christ's Light into a world where a lot of folks see only darkness. I invite you to consider serving on Council, and God Bless you and keep you safe.

Respectfully submitted:

Rick Brown, Steward of Outreach

## CHURCH COUNCIL

Opportunities to serve on the church's council are available! Job descriptions are on the counter outside of the office. Want the "scoop"? Visit with a nominating committee member or a current council member.

Voting for council members will take place on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at Faith's Annual Meeting (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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:flchamilton.finsec@gmail.org)



## A Message from Faith's President/Convener

Jacque VanDenburg

**Dear Members of Faith Lutheran Church,**

As I prepare to pass on the baton as president of the council, I find myself reflecting on the incredible journey we have shared over the past three years. It has been an honor and privilege to serve in this role and to witness God's work through our congregation.

Together, we have faced challenges, celebrated milestones, and grown in faith and community. From the smallest acts of kindness to our larger collective efforts, I have seen the love of Christ reflected in our congregation. Your dedication to this church and serving Christ has been both inspiring and humbling.

I want to take a moment to thank you for your trust, encouragement, and prayers throughout my time as president. Whether it was through council meetings, special projects, or simply sharing a smile on Sunday mornings, your support made this journey one of joy and fulfillment.

As I step down, I am filled with confidence in the future of Faith Lutheran Church. Our new council leadership will bring fresh perspectives and a heart for serving, and I have no doubt they will continue to guide our church with wisdom and faith. I ask that you extend to them the same grace and support you so generously gave me.

Though my time in this role is ending, I remain committed to praying for our congregation in the journey of faith. I am excited to see where God leads us next, knowing that His plans for us are always good.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as your council president. It has been a blessing beyond measure. May we continue to grow together in love, faith, and service to our Lord.

In Christ's peace,

**Jacque VanDenburg**

Outgoing President of the Council

Faith Lutheran Church

### **FAITH'S ANNUAL MEETING**

The annual meeting will on **February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025**, after worship. 2024 Annual Report Booklets are available on the table in the Narthex. You are welcome to take one for your perusal.

### **FAITH HOUSE UPDATE**

On December 8, 2025, Faith Lutheran Church voted to sell the Faith House property during a Special Congregational Meeting. Details are available in the 2024 Annual Report or through the church office.



## REMEMBERING JACK WIGEN

By Clairice Brady

Jack Wigen was in church Christmas Eve to celebrate Christ's birth. Just a few days later he was in the arms of that same Savior. No one who knew Jack ever doubted his love for his Lord.

Jack has been an integral part of Faith Lutheran for many years. After taking some time to worship at Corvallis Methodist and serve Christ there, he and Ginny returned to Faith and both said, "We're back and we're home." And we are all blessed by that decision.

Quick wit and a wealth of knowledge have long been recognizable traits of Jack Wigen. Among many evidences of this trait, one I specifically remember, happened on August 6, 2000. The Bitterroot was surrounded by fire. Members of the Ultreya group had gathered to worship and share faith at Faith. As we stepped out the back door, we noted a fire east of the church had "blown up." We all stared through our dense smoke at the massive cloud and Jack spoke. He explained to us the science of fire and how it can create its own weather that could spark new fires and sometimes even rain. He referred to it as a fire tornado and how extreme conditions cause it. That night we learned some fires had spread and new ones had been sparked.

Jack served the Church Council as Steward of Property and Grounds, and it was during his term that he okayed the removal of some beautiful but outgrown shrubbery and said yes to the group who developed the Rose Garden.

Jack's gentle nature and his love for Christ and His Church will be forever remembered by many folks at Faith and the community as well. Ginny...we grieve with you. We too have been blessed by his presence and our arms are around you.

# What's Up At FAITH



## FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Faith Lutheran Church has a monthly intergenerational bible study and dinner. Join us here at FLC on the last Sunday of each month from 5-7 pm. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex (it helps to have a headcount for meal and material planning). All are welcome!

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



## SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat". Knowing that Haven House provided food for an average of 1,750 people per month last year, Faith Lutheran Church will again challenge our members with the Souper Bowl of Caring program. Beginning January 19 until Super Bowl Sunday, February 9th, we will be collecting cans of soup, stews, heat 'n eat cans of SpaghettiOs/RavioliOs, plus boxes of crackers to go with that soup. These will be displayed in the church and on Super Bowl Sunday, we'll offer a blessing over the collection and distribute it to several of the food pantries in our area. Let's support this worthwhile outreach and collect a mountain of soup!

## COMMUNITY MEALS

Tuesday, February 25th will be the next time Faith volunteers prepare a meal. Meal preparation will be at 1 pm in the Faith kitchen as usual and serving will be from 5 – 6 pm at Cornerstone Church. Volunteers are always needed. If you have any questions, you can always check with Linda Beyer, the Community Meal Coordinator at 406-207-3471.

## FAITH KITCHEN REQUESTS

We have so many members who are concerned about our environment and practice recycling and reusing. You are to be commended! However, please do not bring anymore plastic containers to the church kitchen until further notice. There are so many they are falling out the cupboard. Thank you!

Are you missing any bowls, plates, pans at your house? There are some items that have been left in the church kitchen that likely are missing their friends at home. Check the counters & corners to see if you recognize an item that might belong to you.

# February

Faith Lutheran Church, ELCA

2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
	<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>						1
2 Worship 9:30 am  Fill Care Packages for our college students after worship	3 Simple Way (WW) 3 & 5:30 pm	4	5 Quilting 9 am-noon	6	7	8	
9 Worship 9:30 am  Annual Mtg. after worship	10 Simple Way (WW) 3 & 5:30 pm	11	12	13	14	15	
16 Worship 9:30 am	17 Office Closed for President's Day Simple Way (WW) 3 & 5:30 pm	18	19 Quilting 9 am-noon	20 Men's Breakfast 9am	21	22	
23 Worship 9:30 am  <b>Family Faith Formation study &amp; dinner 5-7 pm</b>	24 Simple Way (WW) 3 & 5:30 pm	25 Comm. Meal Prep 1 pm Serve 5-6 pm @ Cornerstone	26	27	28		



Lucas E.	1	Zachery F.	19
Millie U.	2	Michelle M.	21
Brooke. K	5	Olivia H.	25
Mark L.	9	Cole K.	25
Cory K.	11	Jeb V.	25
Carron G.	12	Don C.	28
Ellen D.	14	Jacob H.	28
Everett D.	15		
Jessica E.	17		