

THE

FAITH HERALD

January 2026 NEWSLETTER



It's getting to be that time of year when we eagerly await the Super Bowl 2026. Well, not everybody, but our one big food drive is highly anticipated as we watch our narthex table fill to overflowing from week to week with cans of soups, stews, chili, etc. for our Souper Bowl of Caring 2026. The past three years have netted 836 pounds of food for our local food pantries. On behalf of all our volunteers at Haven House, we appreciate the huge donation that results from our ***Souper Bowl of Caring Tackling Hunger*** drive at Faith Lutheran Church. Beginning January 18th through February 8th, please think about picking up a few extra cans while shopping and let's see that mountain of cans grows to overflowing.

Thank you, Jan Serfass



tacklehunger.org

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

flchamilton.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



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



Dear Friends and Members of FLC

“So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” 2 Corinthians 5:17

Well, here we are again—another January has come upon us—another “New Year’s Day.” And why is it anyway that we celebrate this day. After all, it’s just another day. But on many Calendars, this first day in January says, “New Year’s Day,” and the number may even be in a different color. So why is this date change so important for so many of us.

Perhaps it’s because a new year offers a new beginning, the chance to start anew, to start fresh. A new year seems like a very appropriate time to begin a new exercise program at the gym, or to start a new diet program, because it gives us a fresh start again to improve ourselves. It seems like a logical and natural time to start something, and I would say this is why many people make New Year’s resolutions.

The Christian life offers lots of opportunities for fresh starts, for changing what we’ve been doing or beginning to live differently. When we worship here at FLC we frequently will begin with a time of confession admitting our sins. “In the presence of God and of one another” we admit that our lives are not perfect, that we’re not living the way we should be living, that we’re doing things we should not do and not doing the things we should do.

But right after this confession, God responds, and we hear the good news that because of God’s forgiveness, because God loves us, we all get a fresh start. We hear from Psalm 103:12 that God has taken our sins away from us “as far as the east is from the west.” We are given a fresh start; we indeed are forgiven.

And then we become discouraged as the next week begins, or maybe the next day, or the next couple of minutes, because we find ourselves sinning again. We seem to forget, perhaps, what God has done for us. But we are always given another opportunity to remember God’s love for us. God never gets tired of forgiving us!

Martin Luther, from *The Small Catechism*, says we ought to start each day like this:

“In the morning, as soon as you get out of bed, you are to make the sign of the holy cross and say: ‘God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit watch over me. Amen.’ Then, kneeling or standing, say the Apostle’s Creed and the Lord’s Prayer...After singing a hymn, or whatever else may serve your devotion, you are to go to your work joyfully.”

You don’t have to wait for a new year to get a fresh start. Every day we are given the opportunity to wake up and remember that you are a child of God. You have been claimed, redeemed, and set free by Jesus Christ. After hearing the promise of forgiveness and receiving that promise as we worship, we continue the only way we can, by together giving joyful thanks to God in our singing and by learning more about God’s grace and love for us by hearing God’s word.

“So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” 2 Corinthians 5:17 Not only every Year, but every minute of every day!

Partners in sharing God’s grace,
Pastor Paul

COUNCIL CORNER

January 2026



Many thanks to all that participated in the approval of the 2026 Budget. The Q & A was well attended, and Council appreciates the thoughtfulness in questions.

As we approach our upcoming Annual Meeting in 2026, I would like to have at least one member for each Committee to be present, your work throughout the year will be recognized!

Until next year, Happy New Year and Many Blessings to you and your family! A Christ has been born for us!

Respectfully,

Cory Keith
Convenor



Bitterroot Adopt A Family Gift Card Tree

Thank you to those that donated to the Gift Card Tree. Faith Lutheran Church provided \$1,025 in gift cards to help local families!

FLC COUNCIL MEMBERS:

President/Convener: Cory Keith

Communication: LaDonna Grotbo

Discipleship: Brooke Kimzey

Fellowship/Hospitality:
Susan Wetzsteon

Finance: Dean Drake

Outreach: Jane Mason

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.com

COMMUNITY MEALS

The Faith Lutheran Community Meal team will be serving January 27th meal at the Cornerstone Bible Church on Fairgrounds Road. The meal preparation will start at 1 pm in the Faith kitchen and serving will be 5-6 pm at Cornerstone. Server volunteers should be at Cornerstone at least 15 minutes before we begin to serve. If you would like to help prepare or serve the meal, please contact Linda Beyer (406-207-3471) or Jan Serfass.



Men's Retreat: Transformation

Join us at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp for a powerful weekend of Transformation, inspired by Ezekiel 36:26:

"A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you, and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."

Theme: Transformation

Dates: January 23-25, 2026

Cost: \$215/person; includes all meals, snacks, sessions etc (\$100 deposit due with registration)

Ages: Freshman in High School to 110 years old

Study: The retreat will be guided by the book, *On the Threshold of Transformation* by Richard Rohr Daily Meditation for Men

Activities Include: A variety of activities are available such as hikes, service project, music around the campfire, and more.

Retreat check-in is on Friday from 5-6pm with dinner at 6:15pm; Retreat ends Sunday at noon.

For more info visit www.flbc.net or email registration@flbc.net.

2026 REGISTRATION ~ Men's Retreat: Transformation

January 23-25, 2026 • \$215 / person • Registration Deadline January 9, 2026

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone # (☐ Home ☐ Cell ☐ Other) : _____ Roommate Request: _____

Email: _____

Please list any dietary restrictions, severe allergies, or housing needs: _____



SCAN HERE TO REGISTER

or visit www.FLBC.net or by email: registration@flbc.net or mail this form with payment to: FLBC 603 S Main St., Kalispell, MT 59901. A \$100 non-refundable deposit is required to hold your spot by January 9, 2026.

A list of what to bring and a schedule will be sent to you prior to the retreat.



January

Faith Lutheran Church, ELCA

2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 <i>Office Closed Happy New Year</i>	2	3
4 Worship 9:30 am	5	6	7 Quilting 9 am-noon	8	9	10
11 Worship 9:30 am	12 Simple Way 3 & 5:30 pm	13	14	15 Men's Breakfast 9am	16	17
18 Worship 9:30 am	19 Simple Way 3 & 5:30 pm	20 Deadline to submit content for the newsletter (11:59 pm)	21 Quilting 9 am-noon	22	23	24
25 Worship 9:30 am	26 Simple Way 3 & 5:30 pm	27 Community Meal prep 1pm, serve 5pm @ Cornerstone	28	29	30	31



Amanda B.	1	Logan V.	8	Jerry M.	21
Shirley M.	1	Ginny W.	8	Wayne M.	22
Bryce R.	1	Kerry H.	9	John M.	23
Clairice B.	3	Gunnar L.	10	Susan W.	23
Chris M.-S.	3	Joyce K.	13	Jennifer L.	24
Lina G.	6	Nichole M.	15	Paul R.	24
Marlin L.	6	Ron O.	16	Cheryl M.	25
Carol P.	6	Virginia K.	17	Jane R.	28
				Keegan W.	29