

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America





## A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP YEHIEL CURRY

Dear friends in Christ,

As Lutherans, we are set free to love our neighbors and seek justice. In Colossians 2, we read: "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving" (6-7).

I am abounding in thankfulness for you, church. You are an integral part of this mission as we envision a world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation. The ministries of congregations including yours, our synods and the ELCA churchwide organization are all working together today and every day so more people may know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love. From providing food to people experiencing hunger, to helping train the next generation of leaders that will lead this church, your support is at work here at home and around the world.

Your generosity to each of the three expressions of the church — your congregation, your synod and the churchwide organization — has made it possible for us to do this work

together. Your financial resources, your time volunteering and accompanying others, and your voices are so valued.

As we look ahead to the coming year, I encourage you to continue to walk in Christ, remembering you are rooted and established in faith, and free to love and serve your neighbors. Thank you, church, for the ways you connect with and support our siblings across the ELCA and in our communities.

In Christ,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yehiel Curry'.

The Rev. Yehiel Curry  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

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“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

—Colossians 2:6-7

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## **Faith Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Agenda – February 8, 2026**

Call to Order – Cory Keith

Opening Prayer/ Liturgy (inside back cover) – Pastor Paul Anderson

Approval of February 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes

Approval of December 2025 Annual Budget Meeting Minutes

Questions & Answers regarding Annual Reports

Old Business -- none

New Business

Elections – See Stand Alone Ballot Sheet

Closing Remarks – Cory Keith

Closing Prayer – Pastor Paul Anderson

Adjournment – Cory Keith

**Faith Lutheran Church, Hamilton, Montana**  
**Congregational Annual Meeting Minutes**  
 February 9, 2025

**The meeting called to order:** at 10:44 am by Council President/Convener - Jacque VanDenburg.

- 52 Members were present; See appendix A

**Opening Prayer & Liturgy:** Pastor Paul. See last page of the 2024 Annual Report booklet distributed at today's meeting.

**Approval of Minutes of the February 11, 2024, Annual meeting** as found on page 2 of the 2024 Annual Report booklet distributed at today's meeting.

DISCUSSION: the minutes of the February 11, 2024, stated that Sue Brown was on the nominating committee, it should have listed Sue Rose.

MOTION "Approve Minutes as corrected": Rick Brown

SECOND: Leann Marten

PASSED: unanimous

**Approval of Minutes of the December 8, 2024, Annual Budget meeting, 2024** as found on page 4 of the 2024 Annual Report booklet distributed at today's meeting.

MOTION "Approve Minute as distributed": Susan Wetzsteon

SECOND: Judy Griffin

PASSED: unanimous

**Approval of Minutes of the December 8, 2024, Congregational Special meeting on Faith House** as found on page 5 of the 2024 Annual Report booklet distributed at today's meeting.

DISCUSSION: Tim Wiersum remembered a discussion of the need to work on mission development and asked clarification of when that occurred and where it stands. He was guided to the minutes of the September 29, 2024, Congregational Special Meeting on page 6 of the 2024 Annual Report booklet distributed at today's meeting.

MOTION "Approve Minute as distributed": Rick Brown

SECOND: Karen Heller

PASSED: unanimous

**Approval of Minutes of the September 29, 2024, Congregational Special meeting on Faith House** as found on page 6 of the 2024 Annual Report booklet distributed at today's meeting.

MOTION "Approve Minute as distributed": John Marten

SECOND: Susan Wetzsteon

PASSED: unanimous

**Annual Reports:**

Questions and Answers regarding the 2024 Council Steward Annual reports which were printed in the 2024 Annual Report booklet distributed at today's meeting: Celeste asked for a report on Pastor's sabbatical. He said he would be glad to share it with her. No other concerns were brought forward.

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:** Celeste requested information about the status of the congregation directory. She was directed to the Steward of Communication Annual report on page 16 of the 2024 Annual Report booklet

distributed at today's meeting. The directory contains names of those who have told us they want to be in the directory by completing our communication preference form. The directory is available from the church office in hard copy form and is for member use only.

Colleen reminded everyone that the communication preference form (as seen on page 16 of the 2024 Annual Report booklet distributed at today's meeting), was created to help Jenny use the methods people preferred for communications from the church. She has done a great job of organizing this information and helping people to easily express their preferences. Thus far more than 98 friends and members of Faith Lutheran Church have completed the form. Colleen encouraged anyone who had not completed the form to contact Jenny at the church office. Also, people are encouraged to complete a new form if their preferences changed.

**Old Business:** None

**Elections:**

**The Nominating Committee submitted the following ballot for positions.**

**Church Council**

President/Convener (1 year term) – Cory Keith  
 Steward of Communication (2 year term) – LaDonna Grotbo  
 Steward of Outreach (2 year term) – Jane Mason  
 Steward of Hospitality (2 year term) – Susan Wetzsteon  
 Steward of Worship (2 year term) – Amber Richardson

*Note the following have one year left in their term:*

- *Steward of Finance – Dean Drake*
- *Steward of Property & Grounds – Greg Houser*
- *Steward of Discipleship – Booke Kimzey*

**Endowment Fund Committee One Open position – Karen Heller**

*Notes:*

- *Amber Richardson (term renews 2026)*
- *Judy Griffin (term renews 2027)*
- *Shawn Boelman (term renews 2027)*

**Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp Representatives (we need two)**

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp Representative - Jennifer Murillo  
 Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp Representative - Josie VanDenburg  
 Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp Alternate - Cory Keith

**MT Synod Delegates for May 20<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> in Great Falls**

MT Synod Male Delegate: Jeb Vandenburg  
 MT Synod Male Delegate Alternate: (nomination from the floor = Rick Brown)  
 MT Synod Female Delegate: Cory Keith  
 MT Synod Female Delegate Alternate: (nomination from the floor = Susan Peterson)

**2026 Nominating Committee for next year's annual meeting:**

Council Appointed – (nomination from the floor = Amber Richardson)  
 Nomination from the floor – (nomination from the floor = Rick Brown)

Nomination from the floor – (nomination from the floor = Susan Wetzsteon)

Nomination from the floor – (nomination from the floor = Brooke Kimzey)

Nomination from the floor – (nomination from the floor = Lans Richardson)

APPROVAL of Ballot

MOTION: "Approval of Ballot by Acclamation" Susan Wetzsteon

SECOND: Mark Livesay

PASSED: unanimous

**Closing Prayers: Pastor Paul**

MOTION "to adjourn the meeting": John Marten

SECOND: Pastor Paul

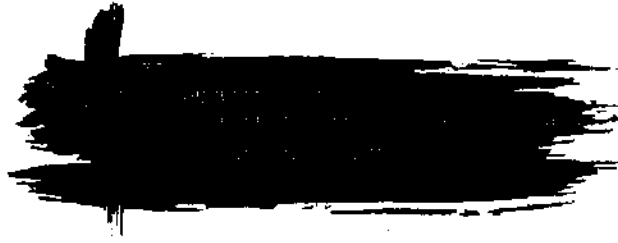
PASSED: unanimous

The meeting was adjourned in due form by Council President/Convener - Jacque VanDenburg.

**Faith Lutheran Church, Hamilton MT  
Special Congregational Meeting  
2026 Budget Approval  
December 7, 2025**

**A family of God built on love: Worshiping, Welcoming,  
Learning and Serving, in Christ's Name.**

1. The meeting was called to order at 11:10 am by Faith Lutheran Council Convenor, Cory Keith.
2. 47 Members were present, See Appendix A
3. Steward of Finance, Dean Drake discussed the highlights of expenditures and sale of Faith House for year 2025.
4. Steward of Finance, Dean Drake reviewed the proposed budget for 2026, highlights and expected increases to expenditures.
5. **Motion made by Troy Hansen to approve the 2026 Budget. Second by Dan Kimzey, Motion carried.**
6. **Motion made by Tanner Hansen to adjourn the meeting. Second by Tristan Hansen, Motion carried.**
7. The meeting was adjourned.



## **Letter from the Bishop: Montana Synod - January 2026**

**Acts 4:31** <sup>31</sup> *When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness.*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Thank you for the ministry, service, and love you embody in your congregations and communities. The work we do together as a church is vitally important in the world today. Daily, I pray that God continues to shake and awaken faith in you; that your congregation would be filled with the Holy Spirit as you worship God, teach the faith, serve with love, and tend to the suffering in your midst. May you speak the word of God with boldness to each other and to a world in need of grace and hope.

In my first months serving as Bishop of the Montana Synod, I have learned about the joys and challenges of ministry in this moment from clergy, LMAs, and congregational leaders. As I travel around the synod, I have been encouraged by your deep devotion to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, your care and concern for neighbors, and your resilience in the face of significant challenges. This is not an easy time to be the church, and some congregations acknowledge that transitions and changes have deeply shaken them. Could this be the Holy Spirit leading us into a new future? I wonder whether God might be using some of these uncomfortable experiences to awaken our faith and callings as disciples of Jesus Christ?

I am excited to announce that The Rev. Dr. Dwight Zscheile from Luther Seminary will be the keynote speaker at the 2026 Synod Assembly in Billings on May 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. I encourage you to send delegates and other leaders to explore how God is calling us into a new future.

I am also glad to share that we are working on a new Montana Synod website. We aim to increase accessibility, provide new resources for our synod, and create a more welcoming experience for those checking out our synod online for the first time. Look for this website to launch soon.

As a synod, let us continue to pray and look for the Holy Spirit to lead us into this future together. Your participation in your congregation and the ministries of the Montana Synod makes a difference. More than ever, the church and the world need Lutherans to share the hope that we have by extending grace, mercy, and love to our neighbors.

Thank you for your partnership in boldly sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Bishop Ben Quanbeck

Faith Lutheran Church,

*“Faith Lutheran Church is a family of God Built on love: worshipping, welcoming, learning, and serving in Christ’s Name.”*

**Report from Pastor Paul for the year of 2025**

Dear Members and Friends of Faith Lutheran Church,

The name of our church reflects how we live, and that’s by “faith.” Ephesians 2:8 & 9 says it well:

“8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—9 not the result of works, so that no one may boast.”

Our salvation, then is a gift of God’s unconditional love to us that we receive through faith.

But often, we don’t talk much about verse 10 of the same chapter from Ephesians, and it reads:

“10 For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.”

From Luther’s *Freedom of a Christian*, he writes this about our good works, understanding that we are not saved by them but created in Christ Jesus for them.

“Therefore, we should be guided in all our works by this one thought alone—that we may serve and benefit others in everything that is done, having nothing before our eyes except the need and advantage of the neighbor.”

And it’s from this premise that I write this 2025 report.

I hope you have had a chance to read all of the reports in this packet seeing the way we have been working and serving others as we serve our Lord Jesus Christ. And there are so many others of you here at FLC who have not written reports but who faithfully serving others through volunteering and using your gifts here at FLC. Our President/Convener in her report has said it well. Make sure you read her report.

I am happy to report that during the year of 2025 we have had visitors and people who feel welcome. They enjoy worshipping with us, serving with us, and growing in their faith with us. May we continue to be welcoming to those who enter here, and may we be as welcoming to those around us as God empowers us when we leave the church building.

I have had the opportunity to lead several Grief Group Classes. Some of our own members and friends here at Faith have attended these classes. Thank you FLC for allowing me to reach out to others in this way. We have had some folks from these classes who have come here to FLC and have experienced the love of God and God’s welcoming embrace through this welcoming congregation. And I say thank you!

I am also happy to report that we have been blessed to hear the Word preached by our LMA’s Rick Brown, and Lans Richardson when I am unable to. We also use John Martin who has had seminary training.

I am pleased to report that we continue to do ministry with our ecumenical partners, the Presbyterian Church USA, St Paul’s Episcopal Church, Corvallis United Methodist Church, and the federated Church



here in Hamilton. As partners, we worked together to do a Lenten Lunch and study during Lent. We had a joint VBS during the summer, (please see the steward of discipleship report). We also joined together to provide a Diversity worship service along with the Diversity group here in Hamilton in June.

We have opened our doors here at Faith as well, and have joined the Diversity group here in Hamilton to provide information about programs and awareness of things happening in order to help others in our community.

I was able to be the Adult Bible Study leader at FLBC's Grand Camp.

Thank you all for your support through prayers, your encouragement, and your love as I continue to serve as your pastor as we serve our Lord together.

"10 For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." Ephesians 2:10

My prayer for us as we move into the year of 2026 is the same one I used last year:

Dear God, Thank you that you never leave us where we are. Thank you for the promise of something new. Help us to fix our eyes forward in anticipation of all that is to come. Show us what new things you are wanting to do in and through us this year. Holy Spirit help us to see things differently, through your eternal lens. More powerful than any goal we could aspire to on our own is our willingness to join in the new work you are doing. Thank you for your steady guidance and constant love. In Jesus' name we pray Amen.

Please let me know if you have any comments or questions.

Partners in sharing God's grace,  
Pastor Paul

**A word of gratitude, message from the President/Convenor of Faith Lutheran Church  
Cory Keith**

Through all of these, we give thanks to the Stewards and many people who make worship, fellowship, outreach, discipleship, lay ministry possible every day, including our Sundays:

- The musicians, the seasonal choir, Steward Amber Richardson who organizes the talent team with hard work, and creativity
- Jenny, our office staff, and Steward Ladonna Grotbo that works behind the scenes that prepares all literature for weekly use and all communications to members
- Rick, our logistic/facilities staff, and Steward Greg Houser that has worked tirelessly this year in ensuring the building has top notch heating/cooling and more than adequate insulation, among other little this's and that's (upgrade to the sound system)
- Steward Susan Wetzsteon has brought creativity each month to our fellowship by having a theme and of course, special fellowship events throughout the year. The family always gathers around the kitchen.

- Those that work behind the scenes to prepare communion and the altar each Sunday and special holidays
- The lecturers who give of their time every week reading the word of God with such calm and clarity, at times not an easy task as the Holy Spirit can stir
- Our virtual world team, those who make sure the online content is posted so those worshipping at home can be refreshed and be fulfilled with HIS word. May we trust that this platform gives peace and hope to many
- The ushers who offer hospitality, especially to people when they arrive for the first time
- Guest preachers who offer their creativity and time through the year
- Pastor and his outreach team, that have offered communion to those shut in, prayer to those grieving, guidance to those members that are lost and struggling, and joyful celebration of those receiving baptism or those that openly receive the gift of Christ for the first time
- Thank you to so many more!

One of the most important and countercultural things we can do in these times is show up for and with one another. Showing up to church - worshipping, praying, singing, teaching, learning, serving - is an act of resistance in a world that wishes for you to believe there is no HOPE. It may not be considered the singular cure we need in an era of anxiety and distrust, but it is most certainly the singular NEED to strengthen ourselves for our journey with Christ, and to maintain the bonds of connection and love that Jesus calls us to over and over!

Thank you for being the church - the beloved people of God who believe that we were made for something more, and who try to live that reality each and every day together. As we look into our future for 2026, I have no doubt that God is guiding us filled with hope and stirring our hearts to seek for opportunities to serve at Faith Lutheran Church so that we continue to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world, for each other and for HIS church, Faith Lutheran Church. Our ministry thrives on your participation. We need help in filling Council positions and assisting through various committees throughout the year. As we close 2025, remember that you are loved, you are God's people. Take the hope and strength you find at Faith, to guide you for opportunities to serve.

God's peace be with us all, let HIS Spirit stir our souls and open our sights to divine grace for each other,

Cory Keith

## Annual Reports from FLC Stewards

### **Steward of Discipleship, Brooke Kimzey**

#### **Annual Report 2025**

I would like to thank you for your trust and support over the past two years as I have served as the steward of discipleship.

Please see below for a review of the events and activities that took place this past year:

January -April 2025- We started a Faith Family Formation night once a month. This night was aimed at families with small children, but all were invited to attend. The themes for this first session included love, joy, peace and hope. A meal was provided, along with stories, crafts, guest speakers, song and prayer. An average of 30 people attended these once-monthly events.

May 2024- Faith high school seniors were recognized with quilts. This has become a very beloved tradition for our graduates. A total of 12 scholarships were presented to graduating seniors as well as FLC members who are continuing their higher education.

Summer 2025- Local youths were awarded camperships to attend Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp on Flathead Lake. FLC is proud to sponsor children in order for them to attend this incredible outdoor ministry.

July 2025- Vacation Bible School was held in conjunction with other local churches: First Presbyterian, St. Paul's Episcopal and Corvallis United Methodist. Counselors from Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp traveled to the valley and used the campus of Corvallis United Methodist to lead local children from preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade in various activities. Many volunteers from each congregation contributed to an amazing week!

September- November 2025- Round Two of Faith Family Formation began. Again, monthly meals and activities were provided for families. The themes for this session focused on seasons and holidays that focused on giving and belonging.

November 2025- confirmation class has resumed for students in middle and high school.

### **Steward of Hospitality and Fellowship, Susan Wetzsteon**

#### **Annual Report 2025**

#### **1 Corinthians 10:31**

“So, whatever you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

Thank you for entrusting me with the Steward of Hospitality position. 2025 was a busy year! Here are some of the highlights!

Lenten Soup Suppers were held Wednesday March 5th, 19th, 26th, April 2nd and 9th. Soup, bread and desserts were provided by the Council, Naomi Circle and the Miller's and Grotbo's and the Scholarship Committee.

Faith Lutheran hosted the Ecumenical Lenten Luncheon on March 19th. Helen Volden, Linda Beyer and I provided lunch.

Easter Brunch to benefit our scholarship program was held on April 20th. Thank you to the Scholarship Committee, Mark Livesay, and everyone who helped to make this a tasty success.

The 5th Sunday Supper was held on June 29th. We christened our new Blackstone Grill with a hamburger and hotdog BBQ. We had a great turnout, serving over 40 people!

The Opportunity Fair was held on Sunday, September 7th after church services. The idea behind the Fair was to educate the congregation on the duties and responsibilities of each Steward. A way for people to become engaged in the workings of the church and to learn of volunteering opportunities. Each Steward had their own table or space. Decorations were purchased and Coffee Hour treats were paid for through the Hospitality and Fellowship budget. Thanks to Lans and Cecil Richardson and the Mendenall Family for assisting in the kitchen! People enjoyed the food and fellowship, but there wasn't a lot of engagement with the Stewards and not a lot of signups.

To increase signups for Coffee Hour, we implemented "Congregational Sunday" to be held on the last Sunday of each month. Everyone is invited to bring a favorite dish or treat to share. My hope was to lessen the expectation and commitment of hosting and providing all the food. I did kitchen duty when available but asked for members to take a turn serving coffee and cleaning up. September was our kickoff with Zucchini Sunday, October 26th was Apple Sunday and November 30th Pumpkin Sunday. The last Sunday in December will be Cookie Sunday.

We celebrated Jesus's Birthday after our Christmas Program on December, with delicious, beautifully decorated cupcakes and ice cream and other treats provided by our members. On December 22nd, we hosted our first annual ecumenical movie night. Thank you to Lans Richardson for arranging the showing of "Miracle of Christmas". Free popcorn, drinks and pizza were provided.

I truly appreciate those who have hosted our Sunday Fellowship hour, provided food for our Lenten Lunch and Soup Suppers.

Faithfully Yours, Susan Wetzsteon

#### **1 Peter 4:9**

"Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

#### **Steward of Property and Grounds, Greg Houser Annual Report 2025**

What a year we had in 2025. Did you know that we had NOT one, NOT two, but three furnaces replaced? That is three out of four, with the fourth having had a complete service done on it. We had some of the pipes rerouted so that the offices could be on a zone different from the sanctuary.

The second biggest project was having a heat loss evaluation done with the upgrades done. We had to have a wall put in to make a zone for the kitchen and fellowship hall to be its own zone. This gave us the ability to get an R-37 above such rooms. The rest of the building got R-38 blown-in insulation.

Regular maintenance such as filters being changed, bulbs replaced, mowing, and snow removal have been completed.

I would like to thank Rick and Jenny for all your help.

Going forward, do we look for cosmetics? Carpet, pews face lift of the kitchen? What do you want?

Serving God and the Faith family  
Greg Houser

### **Steward of Worship, Amber Richardson Annual Report 2025**

Sing a Joyful Noise to the Lord!!! What a wonderful year of worship we at Faith Lutheran have had. Over 50 worship services with over 150 hymns sung and readings read. None of it would be possible without the help from our many worship assistants. A big thank you to our assistant ministers, our readers, ushers, counters, sound and online engineers, and our computer technicians, accompanists and our lay pastors. And those folks working behind the scenes, an even bigger shout out. Thank you to our alter guild, and our communion bread baker.

We have been re-using bulletins for our services with an insert for changing hymns, prayers, and announcements.

We are happy to have had some performances by our Faith choir this year. How wonderful to sing to the Lord a new song!!! If you are interested in singing, please contact the church office.

Are you reading this report, wondering how you can get involved? Do you need special training? Maybe you don't have a lot of time but are looking for ways to share your talents with the church. There are so many opportunities, big and small, almost all that don't require much training. Good at running a computer? A passion for reading? Musical gifts, be it voice or instrument? Want to light the alter candles? All gifts can be used to enhance our worship services. Please feel free to reach out to me and we can talk about how you can use your gifts here at Faith Lutheran. In the meantime, Let Us Worship Together!!! Looking forward to seeing you all at Faith Lutheran in 2026!!

Amber Richardson  
Steward of Worship

### **Steward of Communication, LaDonna Grotbo Annual Report 2025**

This year, the office was faced with updating our office equipment to ensure our operations remain efficient and up to date. After careful research and consideration of the many solutions on the market, a proposal was made to replace our older office copier.



The motion to acquire a new copier was presented to the board and subsequently put to a vote. The decision to replace the outdated copier was approved, reflecting our collective commitment to maintaining high-quality office resources.

Jenny, who is responsible for producing all our weekly bulletins and the monthly Herald, will benefit significantly from this upgrade. The new copier is expected to streamline her workflow and improve the quality and reliability of our printed materials.

You may have also noticed that we moved the council's bulletin board to a more visible location and continue to post both the draft and approved version of our council meeting minutes for your viewing and welcome any feedback on additional ways to improve your awareness of the latest board meetings.

Additionally, we continue to update members with our wonderful voicemail reminders. Please contact the office if you would like to be added or removed from this service as well as receiving the Herald via email instead of mailing.

I am happy to report that our church is blessed to have someone as helpful and knowledgeable as Jenny Larson and I would like to publicly thank her for all she does to keep our church running smoothly all year long!

I will continue to serve as communication steward for the remainder of my term. But will be looking for someone who may be interested in serving our faith community in 2026.

In his service and fellowship,  
LaDonna Grotbo

### **Steward of Outreach, Jane Mason Annual Report 2025**

Greetings from your Steward of Outreach.

I have enjoyed this past year serving as the Outreach Steward. As a Church we serve our community in many ways. As I familiarized myself with this branch of our ministry, I have a better understanding of the outreach the Members of Faith provide. Thank you all for your service.

This past year, Rick Brown continued to improve our connection to those wishing to participate in our services through Facebook and YouTube. He reports we have over 300 followers on Facebook and over 100 subscribers to our YouTube channel. We also have many households that Livestream our worship service regularly.

In February, the congregation donated goodies which we used to pack "Valentine's Day Care Packages" for our college youth. We mailed 25 boxes. Parishioners donated funds to help cover the cost of shipping. The boxes were well received.

During the Sapphire Summer Concert series, we ran a booth that sold cotton candy. It was an opportunity to invite children to VBS and share information about Faith Lutheran. This is a popular Outreach program that the community looks forward to each year.

As a congregation, we have agreed to serve a community meal each month. Thank you all who help with this important ministry.

Thank you to Linda Beyer and everyone who volunteered to help make this year's Operation Christmas Child a success. With the help of many we packed over 130 boxes.

Throughout the year, Naomi Circle members hand out coffee mugs with goodies as a means of welcoming people who attend our services for the first time. Thank you for this ongoing ministry.

In support of the Bitterroot Adopt a Family program we collected gift cards from area businesses. The cards were included with the boxes that were distributed to local families. We donated over a variety of cards totaling over \$1000.00.

In December, Lans Richardson spearheaded a multi denominational Christmas movie night at Faith. Congregations from several churches were invited to join us in watching the *Miracle of Christmas*. Pizza and popcorn was provided by the Confirmation Youth.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jane Mason  
Steward of Outreach

## **Steward of Finance, Dean Drake**

### **2024 Annual Report**

How time flies!! It was two years ago that you elected me to serve as your Steward of Finance and, just like that, my term is over and I am writing my last year end report. It has truly been a pleasure to serve this congregation and to work with all of you—from Council members to staff, committees and congregants! Thank you all for the help and support you gave me during my term.

**Serving on council is a wonderful experience and if you ever have the opportunity please say "Yes!" You will not regret it!**

I wish to thank all those that were able to continue giving during 2025 to support God's work through this congregation. Giving for the year increased approximately 1% from last year. About 75% of Faith Lutheran Church's total income comes from collections during church services and this helps provide primary funding for our ministries and to pay our bills. We could not continue to do what we do without this critical support. Thank You!

### **2025 Highlights:**

#### **1. The sale of Faith House**

- a. Our congregation voted to sell Faith House in early 2025
- b. The sale of Faith House closed in August
- c. Capital gains from the sale have been utilized as follows:
  - i. \$300,000 have been invested in Certificates of Deposit at a local bank
  - ii. Approximately \$46,000 was used on required maintenance of FLC (new furnaces, roof insulation, new pressure tank, etc.)
  - iii. Approximately \$44,000 remain in FLC's checking and savings accounts for future maintenance of FLC, etc.

#### **2. Performance of our Thrivent Fund Investments**

- a. FLC has approximately \$247,000 invested in Thrivent thru mid-November
- b. Performance of these funds since the beginning of the year has been approximately 7%

- c. Many of these funds are dedicated to specific purposes and can not be used for operating expenses. These funds include our Scholarship Fund, Gerloff Youth and Music Fund and our Endowment funds.

### 3. FLC's overall Financial Health

- a. Two primary reports are used to help understand the financial health of FLC. They consist of the 2025 Balance Sheet (a snapshot of where the church stands in terms of assets and liabilities) and the statement of Profit and Loss (a way to look at 2025's operating income and expenses). A summary of these reports for 2025 follows.
  - i. FLC's Balance Sheet shows that we ended the year in fine shape. We own our Church facility, carry no long or short term debt and our investments with Thrivent and First Security Bank are healthy. FLC has total assets of about \$1.4 million of which \$522 thousand are fixed assets (FLC Church property).
  - ii. FLC's Profit and Loss statement was skewed for 2025 due to the profit from the sale of Faith House and the deferred maintenance projects that were completed on our church facility. While giving was up approximately 1%, our total net operating income was barely able to meet our operating expenses. This is of concern moving forward as we do not want to be in a position where we must use savings to pay for current operating expenses.
- b. These reports indicate that, while there are areas of concern that we must monitor, our church is in excellent financial position as we enter 2026.

Again, I want to thank this congregation for allowing me to serve you this past term and for all that you do to support our ministries both financially and through volunteering your time and talents!

**May God bless you all! Dean Drake, Your Steward of Finance**

### **FLC Office, Jennifer Larson Annual Report 2025**

Good Tidings Faith Family:

The office continues to support the church council members, update and manage the *Servant Keeper* database, publish and distribute *The Faith Herald* newsletter, create bulletins and power point slide shows for worship, report music for licensing, compile the Annual Report booklets, and so much more.

As always, I am here to help. In the interest of serving you better, please contact me during office hours (Mon.-Fri. 9am-1pm) with questions and requests. It would be very helpful to direct visitors with questions to the office (during office hours) as well. Thank you for your support and I look forward to working and worshiping with you all.

Many Thousand Thanks:

Jennifer Larson, Friendly Faith Secretary

## Committee Reports

### Endowment Committee 2025

Once again, the Endowment committee has had a fairly slow year. While the Quasi Endowment funds are back to principal balances, we have not had many requests for funds. The committee did meet after the annual meeting last year as well as agreed to spend funds on the Sapphire Lutheran Homes concert series.

If you have questions about the endowment committee or how we determine what to spend funds on, please let me know.

Amber Richardson

Endowment Committee Chair

### Memorial Committee 2025

#### **Memorial Fund**

Carol Mitchell

	Checking Account	Savings Account	Total
On Hand 1-1-25	\$321.36	\$2,415.14	\$2,736.50
On Hand 12-31-25	\$321.36	\$1,815.90	\$1,137.26

#### **SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS**

Balance on hand, 1-1-25 \$ 2,736.50

	Memorial Gifts Received	1,000.00
	Interest	_____.76
Total Receipts		

Total Available for Distribution \$1,137.26

Expenditures	\$0
Total expenditures	\$0

Balance on hand, 12-31-25 \$1,137.26

Memorial gifts were received in loving memory of the following persons: Jack Wigen and Lea Nordstrom.

Carol Mitchell and Jennifer Larson  
Memorial Committee Members

### Mutal Ministry Committee 2025

Pastor Eric Huseeth  
[eric@emmausmontana.org](mailto:eric@emmausmontana.org)  
 406-549-7821  
[www.emmausmontana.org](http://www.emmausmontana.org)



## 2025 Annual Report to Congregations

**Emmaus Campus Ministry** continues to thrive as an ELCA ministry working in partnership with the Episcopal, United Church of Christ, and Methodist congregations and denominations. Emmaus is a community living in the vision of Jesus' radical love and dignity for all people and life. Emmaus is a Reconciling in Christ group which means it is open and affirming to people of all gender and sexual identities and strives towards racial justice and equality in our world.

**Student residents and staff:** We currently have housing for 15 students living in three different houses including the Ark, Emmaus House, and the Wesley House. We have about 35 students or young adults who are active in some way with us. In October, Caleb Koebble's position with Emmaus was refocused away from property maintenance to encompass more time helping students getting connected with the outside community in terms of volunteering and networking. Caleb's position is still shared with Grace United Methodist Church where he serves as part-time commissioned Lay Pastor. Our Office Manager, Terecita Disney, and Finance Manager, Bethany Youngblood, have increased their hours in order to make our staff more efficient and responsive to student (and resident) needs.

**A New Era of Funding and Financial Sustainability for Campus Ministry:** 2025 saw a record amount of support from congregations and individual donors. We want to extend a massive THANKYOU to our partners for this fact and know that this donation support continues to help us provide crucial care and activities for students as university cuts due to decreasing federal funding take hold. Instead of doing a major FallFest fundraiser this year, our Emmaus Board and staff have decided to focus on 4 new smaller fundraiser events that we'd like to invite our community to be a part of. The first of these events will be a ***Fat Tuesday Breakfast for Dinner and Magic Show*** happening on **February 17th at St. Paul Lutheran Church starting at 5pm**. Our students will be serving breakfast and a fun family friendly magic show will be put on by a close friend of Emmaus, Evan Disney. Keep a look-out to our upcoming 2026 newsletters for more of these fun fundraiser dates!

**Student Programs:** The heart of our student group is our weekly dinner sessions on Wednesday nights during the semester with an average of about 20 students. These sessions always consist of cooking and sharing a meal with one another as well as rotating between a worship/ritual activity and discussion/presentation topic. We hosted a winter retreat in partnership with MSU Table & Grace Campus Ministry (ELCA) at Discovery Ski Area, hit the hot springs, as well as stayed overnight and joined for worship at Our Redeemer Lutheran in Helena, MT. Our spring break trip was life changing as we traveled down to El Paso, TX and encountered incredible people and ministries on the border giving care and welcome to the stranger as well as showing Christ's light at Iglesia Luterno Cristo Rey (ELCA Spanish Speaking Congregation). We hosted our Fall Retreat going ziplining, touring the Butte underground tunnels, and staying overnight at Hope Lutheran in Anaconda. We also have taken on a number of local service projects throughout the year. 2026 is looking fun and busy as we are gearing up for a winter retreat in February and a spring break/service learning trip to Rocky Boy Indian Reservation in Montana!



**Luther Residency and Elizabeth Project Mentorship Programs:** 2025 has been a huge year where we've gotten more students and mentors involved in our Elizabeth Project mentorship program. We went from 8 students and mentors in our inaugural spring 2025 semester to 15 mentorship pairs in Fall Semester 2025! In fact, for a length of time, we had more students interested than mentors available. Please contact Pastor Eric if you are interested in being a mentor! We also had a tremendous launch to our Luther Residency Program involving 3 students and faculty/staff from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. This program is a paid internship for 10 hours a week that encompasses online courses, a project, and spiritual direction. The program is focused on the calling of the Holy Spirit and how one's faith can take a more central role in one's life and decision making following graduation and beyond. We have had excellent feedback from our students and are working at inviting other campus ministries to take part as well as more students in the autumn.

**Buildings and Grounds:** Minor updates to all the properties were completed this summer including new carpet, painting of several rooms in the Ark and Wesley House, as well as cleaning. A new property steering committee has been assembled and will provide guidance and resources to help keep our properties in proper repair and health. A new part-time property manager could be on the horizon if funding allows. Emmaus continues its close and positive partnership with Wesley House and will manage and coordinate needed maintenance on those houses in the coming year.

## **STAY TUNED FOR EMMAUS CAMPUS MINISTRY'S ANNUAL REPORT**

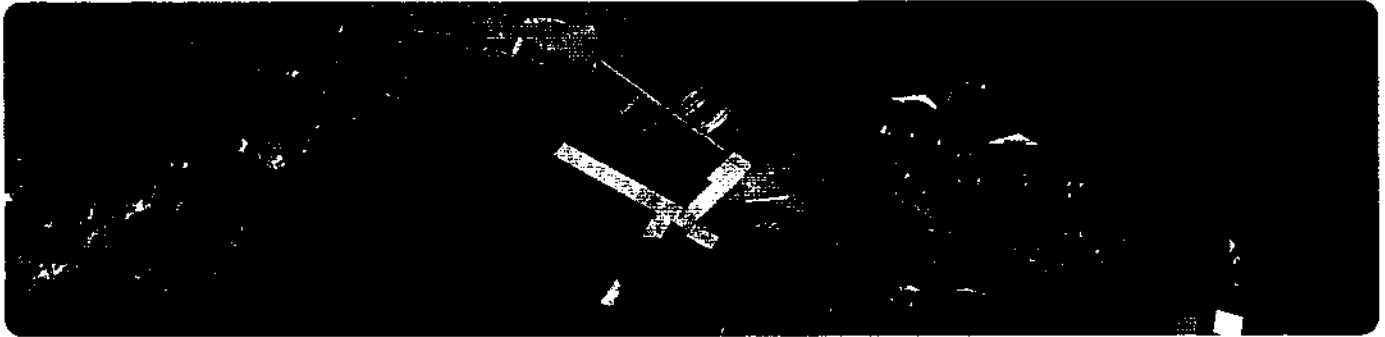
**with financial details in our winter (March) newsletter!**

**To sign-up for our e-news letter, contact our Office Manager, Terrecita Disney at:**  
**[office@emmausmontana.org](mailto:office@emmausmontana.org)**

**If you know of any future or current students at the University of Montana, please reach out to Pastor Eric! He loves to have coffee conversations and get to know new students!**

# *Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp*

## 2025 Annual Report



**Dear Friends of Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp,**

The story of Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp in 2025 is, at its heart, a story of God's faithfulness.

Throughout the year, children, youth, families, and adults gathered along the shores of Flathead Lake to worship, learn, rest, and grow. In worship spaces both formal and spontaneous—around campfires and picnic tables—God's grace was shared and received.

This ministry continues because of your partnership—your prayers, your generosity, and your belief in the power of camp to shape faith for a lifetime. Thank you for walking alongside Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp in 2025.

With gratitude,

**Jason Asselstine**  
*Executive Director*

### *2025 By the Numbers*

**765**

Summer Youth Campers

**43**

Summer Staff

**185**

Glacier Wilderness Campers

**275**

FLBC-Led Retreat Guests

**389**

Day Campers

**3,122**

Retreat Guests

**110**

Outreach Event Participants

**85**

Volunteers



## **SUMMER MINISTRY: FAITH TAKES ROOT**

Summer is the heartbeat of Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. In 2025, campers arrived with excitement and questions—and left with deeper faith, new friendships, and a strong sense of belonging.

### **Each week of camp included:**

- Daily worship centered in Scripture
- Small group Bible study and faith conversation
- Outdoor adventure—swimming, boating, hiking, games, and campfires
- Caring leaders who modeled faith, curiosity, and compassion

Campers learned that faith is not something reserved for Sunday mornings, but something lived daily—through kindness, forgiveness, courage, and trust in God.

“At camp, I learned that God loves me just the way I am—and that I belong.”  
— Camper Reflection

## **FORMING LEADERS & NURTURING COMMUNITY**

A vital part of camp ministry is leadership development. In 2025, counselors and staff were formed through intentional training, mentoring, and hands-on leadership in worship, small groups, and service. Many named their summer at camp as a defining experience—shaping their faith, confidence, and sense of vocation.

Beyond summer, Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp remained a year-round ministry, welcoming congregations, youth groups, families, leaders, and community partners. These retreats and gatherings provided sacred space to rest, reconnect, and renew faith amid the beauty of creation.

## **CREATION PROCLAIMS THE GOSPEL**

The natural setting of Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp is not simply a backdrop—it is a partner in ministry. Worship by the lake, prayer under open skies, and moments of quiet reflection reminded participants that creation itself proclaims God’s glory, inviting all to slow down and remember they are part of something larger than themselves.



## GRATITUDE FOR PARTNERSHIP

This ministry is sustained through shared commitment and generous support. We give thanks for:

- Congregations who send campers
- Families who entrust their children and youth to camp
- Volunteers and board members who lead with wisdom and care
- Staff and summer leaders who live out the mission daily
- Donors and partners whose generosity makes camp accessible
- Community organization who partner in year-round activities

Because of you, Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp continues to be a place where faith is nurtured and lives are changed.

## LOOKING AHEAD WITH HOPE

As we look to the future, we do so with gratitude and confidence. In 2025, we began the first phase of our capital campaign, **Waves of Grace**, led by **Margie Fiedler**, in partnership with **Kim and Ben Haugestuen** and the steering committee.

**The goal of this first phase is to raise \$2.8 million to:**

- Improve accessibility for individuals with limited physical abilities
- Build volunteer and guest housing
- Improved guest bathroom facilities
- Grow the camp's endowment by **\$1 million**, strengthening long-term sustainability

Thank you for being part of this story.  
Thank you for believing in this ministry.  
Thank you for partnering in God's work.

**God's work. Our hands. Together.**



# ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.

**And also with you.**

Teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

Descend on our hearts, that we may love others in the ways Jesus loves us.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

Empower us to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

Move us to engage issues in our community in Christlike ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those with whom we serve and partner.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

Strengthen us to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others amid disagreement.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

Give us the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in the neighborhoods we serve.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures as well as its successes and offers wisdom to others.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other and those we serve in the world.

**Amen.**

## Founded on Faith



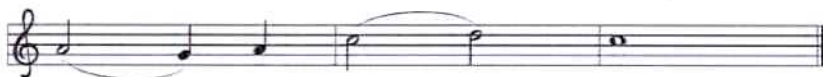
1 Found - ed on faith, the church— a - live by grace—  
2 Your cross, O Christ, re - news our life each day.  
3 E - quipped by prayer, we live the Spir - it's call.  
4 Grow - ing in grace for God's cre - at - ed earth,  
5 Found - ed on faith, called forth, em - pow'ed to serve,



pro - claims the gos - pel here and ev - 'ry place.  
Bap - tized in you, we learn and teach and pray.  
Em - pow'ed to serve with gifts, both great and small,  
we yearn for jus - tice, peace, and hu - man worth;  
we share God's end - less love with - out re - serve.



The word of God re - sounds through time and space:  
Fed by your love, with thank - ful hearts, we say:  
we bring the liv - ing hope of God to all.  
a world re - stored; a faith - ful, car - ing church.  
Then let us shout a - loud the liv - ing Word!



Al - le - lu - ia!

*All Creation Sings, 1048.*

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## THROUGH YOUR GENEROSITY, GOD IS AT WORK ACROSS THE ELCA.

### MISSION SUPPORT

A portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church, helping the ELCA nurture Christian community, raise up leaders, serve our neighbors and strive for justice.

### ELCA WORLD HUNGER

Part of our church's long tradition of meeting human needs, ELCA World Hunger testifies to our hope for and commitment to God's promise of a time when we will hunger and thirst no more. ELCA World Hunger walks alongside communities in more than 60 countries — including the United States — to create unique solutions to hunger and poverty.

### LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

### WHERE NEEDED MOST

Where Needed Most supports the powerful ways we work together around the world — supporting leaders, inspiring young people, fueling ministries and championing global mission. Gifts to Where Needed Most support and sustain the people, congregations, synods and ministries working around the world to realize the hope-filled future God promises.



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

Sign up to hear more stories of impact from the ELCA churchwide organization at [ELCA.org/subscribe](https://elca.org/subscribe).

Read about Mission Support and learn more at [LivingLutheran.org/SOFIA](https://LivingLutheran.org/SOFIA).