

THE

FAITH HERALD

March 2026 NEWSLETTER



2026 SOUPER BOWL OF CARING AT FAITH

Our congregation outdid themselves this year with a whopping 287 lbs. of donated food to Haven House Food Pantry and the Darby Bread Box. Both organizations were very appreciative of the extra canned goods to help stock their shelves. It was great to see the narthex table overflow with your generous donations. Thank you for helping tackle hunger in our communities. But don't stop now... remember we have the blue tote in the narthex for your donations throughout the year. Hunger and the need for food is a 365-day challenge for many families.

Thank you for your generosity,
Jan Serfass

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 s



Dear Friends and Members of FLC

As lent begins, I'm pondering the idea of giving something up during lent. Sacrificing if you will, something to God in order to grow closer to God. These verses from Hebrew come to mind for me.

Hebrews 13:15-16 (NRSV)

15 Through him (Jesus), then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. 16 Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

And after having found these verses, I read a letter from Fr. Jose Panthaplamthottiyil, CMI, Pastor that I would like to share with you that talks about joy in sacrifice. It reads as follows.

"Have you ever thought about the joy in sacrifice that Lent provides? Most of us don't delight in sacrifice; in fact, in our daily lives, we often do our best to avoid challenges and practices that push us outside of our comfort zones.

In Christianity, there is a beautiful irony between joy and sacrifice, and we are presented with a wonderful opportunity to embrace this uniquely during Lent. In one of his Lenten messages, the late Pope Francis shared, "Lent, is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty."

While giving up sweets in favor of healthy snacks for Lent is a common and noble endeavor, the goal of Lent should not only be a spiritual excuse to lose weight! In choosing acts of self-denial, we are saying "no" to things in order to get into the practice of saying "no" when inclined towards sin, ultimately deepening our faith and our relationship with the Lord. Victory can be found when we deny ourselves and pick up our crosses and hardships in order to grow closer to Christ!

Therein lies the joy. When we grow closer to God by denying ourselves will, we say "yes" to a life of abundance with God. Our God is a benevolent God; God will not hold back God's grace from those who honor God and choose challenging things to grow and give God glory. Christ even tells us Himself, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Without question, Lent is a time for conscious penitence and spiritual preparation for Easter. And it is important to remember that God loves us whether we make Lenten changes or not. At the same time, Lent provides us an opportunity to make God a greater part of our life, and to take our faith to new levels. Stewardship is a God-centered way of life—a spiritual way of living that, above all, acknowledges God's presence in all we do.

Lent is a time for every one of us to do more than simply deny ourselves; we need to welcome God into our lives in greater ways so that when we get to Holy Week and Easter, we have an even greater appreciation for the sacrifice the Lord made for us. Talk about pure joy! May you and your loved ones enjoy a holy and joyous Lenten journey."

What a wonderful thing for us to ponder during our Lenten journey.

Partners in sharing God's grace.

Pastor Paul

COUNCIL CORNER

March 2026



Thank you to everyone who attended the Faith Annual Meeting. Your participation and engagement are greatly appreciated!

Please be advised that the following Steward positions remain vacant:

- Steward of Finance
- Steward of Hospitality and Fellowship

A motion was approved to have these responsibilities managed by the Convenor and the Steward of Worship, respectively, until these roles are filled. While church operations will continue as usual, please note that this temporary arrangement adds significant responsibilities to our volunteer team.

During this transition, additional audit controls will be implemented, and full transparency will be maintained within Council Meetings.

Please prayerfully consider serving in one of these capacities to support our community of Faith.

Best regards,

Cory Keith, President/Convener
406-375-5434

FLC COUNCIL MEMBERS:

President/Convener: Cory Keith
Communication: LaDonna Grotbo
Discipleship: Rick Brown
Fellowship/Hospitality:
OPEN
Finance: *OPEN*
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



Lenten Lunches

Join this ecumenical gathering on Wednesdays during Lent for a soup and bread meal and discussion of N.T. Wright's book, *From Wilderness to Glory: Lent and Easter for Everyone*. Books are on order and will be available for \$15. Speak with your pastor to sign up.

Gather at noon:

Wed. Feb. 25 at Faith Lutheran 171 Lewis Lane
Hamilton

Wed. March 4 at St. Paul's Episcopal 600 S 3rd St.
Hamilton

Wed. March 11 First Presbyterian 1220 W Main St.
Hamilton

Wed. March 18 United Methodist American Baptist
Federated Church 211 6th St. Hamilton

Wed. March 25 Corvallis United Methodist Church
356 Corvallis Cemetery Rd, Corvallis

VALENTINE CARE PACKAGES

February first was packing day for Faith. After the service, the congregation packed care packages for our college youth. Baked goods, prepackaged snacks, devotionals, and valentines were carefully compiled into our Valentine's Day Care Packages. 23 boxes were sent all over the state and country. Thank you all for your participation and contribution to this outreach. The boxes were well received.



SOUP SUPPER & SERVICE

Join us Wednesday evenings at 6pm for Soup Supper during Lent.

Holden Evening Prayer Service begins at 7pm.

Come for one or both. All are welcome! Hope to see you there.

COMMUNITY MEALS

Faith's March Community Meal day is Tuesday the 24th. Meal prep begins at 1 pm in the Faith kitchen and serving is at the Cornerstone church on Fairgrounds Rd from 5-6 pm. Volunteers are greatly appreciated and the only way we are able to make great meal possible! In fact, in January Faith's fantastic volunteers prepared and served a record 167 serving of food to those in our community. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Linda Beyer at 406-207-3471 for information or show up to prep or serve the next meal.



REMEMBERING KARLA WEST

Karla West came to Faith from Wisconsin when Jenny was only two years old. She quickly made friends and immersed herself in the workings of her new church. She was soon an officer in FLCW and a Sunday School teacher. Then came Council and Faith's senior choir – all the time making friends. She was a part of the leadership team for the SEARCH Bible study at Faith. She made her Cursillo at St. Francis and had a major role in the one planned by Faith members that ended up being canceled because the venue was surrounded by fire in 2000. Following her family's evacuation, she re-organized the Take and Care ministry that served all kinds of needs for many years. She felt "called" to be among those who left Faith after the ELCA Social statement but remained close to many of her old friends and came back for Christmas Eves and other events. It was at Faith that she sunk her heart into the Shoebox ministry that took her to Ghana to hand out those boxes to excited children. Along with her service to Faith, she and Mike operated the "General" downtown and she also became involved in the working of downtown Hamilton. She had a "heart for crafting" and always had something in the works. She and a group of friends held a bazaar called Angel Lane for many years and she still had some items at K & S when she left us. Her soul lives on with Jesus and so many friends are better for having known and loved her. Mike, Jenny and Sean and Abby, Andrew and Koa, we love you.

Clairice Brady



REMEMBERING JULIE SWANSON

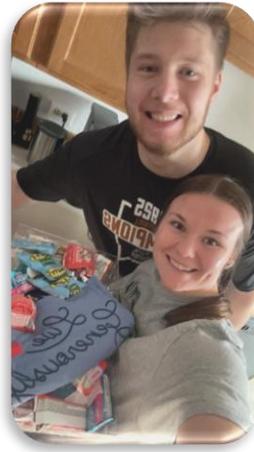
Julie Swanson came to Faith as Julie Knight, a very young schoolteacher. She joined Faith Circle right away and became involved in the life of Faith Lutheran. She met regularly with a Singles group. Charlie Swanson was an eligible bachelor in that group but not for long. He won Julie's heart and off they went to Glasgow to be married. She dove into "apples" with Charlie and became a "regular" at Farmers Market and Daly Days. She and Charlie were part of a caring ministry that began as a summer study and continued for several years. Her family was so important to her, and she was a vibrant cheerleader for both Charla and Luke all their years at home. And – when she was gifted with grandchildren, each one had Julie's heart. Math was her forte, and she tutored many of Faith's children who struggled with Math and her love and expertise raised report card grades. Luke captured her personality well when he talked about her strong fight for passions she believed in. Being a friend of Julie's was a gift to treasure. Even in her illness she asked about our children who she hadn't seen for 30 years and more. Julie touched our lives and Charlie, Charla, Luke and your families, we are better for it. We love you all.

Clairice Brady

THANK YOU NOTES FROM OUR "KIDS"

Dear members of Faith,
What a special treat to receive
your wonderful Valentine's box.
You made our day!
Thank you all,

Kodi Obert
Nursing student at Tech



Faith Lutheran Church!

Thank you so much for the
Valentine package. I really
appreciate it and enjoy all the little
treats. I hope Montana weather is
treating you well.

See you all very soon.



Emma Mitchell
Asian Studies & Peace Studies

Dear Faith Lutheran Church,

Thank you for the Valentines day
box! My roommates and I have
been enjoying the treats, and
looking through the devotionals. It
was an amazing surprise, and
definitely made my week! Thank
you again for your thoughtful gift,
and have an amazing February!



Lauren Lindsay

Dear Faith Lutheran Family,

Thank you for the wonderful Valentine's Day package. Having your love and support while I am away at school means so much to me. As I reflect on the past five years I have spent in college, I see that I could not have done it without you. Your support through care packages, words of encouragement, scholarships, and prayers made it possible for me to achieve my goals. As I complete my undergraduate degree and begin my career as a nurse, I am inspired to share the same love and kindness to my patients and coworkers as you have always shown to me.

Love,



Amanda (Boelman)

Dear Faith Lutheran Church Family,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ. I wanted to write and share an update on how things are going in seminary and in this new season of internship and ministry. First and most importantly, thank you. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, financial support, and the steady love you continue to show me. I truly would not be on this path without the faith community that formed me at Faith Lutheran.

Seminary continues to stretch and shape me in meaningful ways. The coursework is rich and challenging, pushing me to think more deeply about Scripture, theology, leadership, and pastoral care. I am learning not only in the classroom, but also through reflection on my own growth as a pastor in formation. There are moments that feel humbling, moments that feel energizing, and many that feel holy. So often, I find myself thinking back to the ways Faith Lutheran nurtured my call and gave me space to serve and grow.

Alongside my studies, I continue serving as a Vicar in Circle and Richey, Montana. It has been such a gift to walk with these congregations in rural ministry. The people are faithful, hardworking, and deeply committed to their communities. Each week includes preaching, teaching, pastoral visits, and the many behind-the-scenes tasks that keep congregational life moving. Rural ministry has taught me flexibility, creativity, and the importance of presence.

One of the greatest joys right now is working with our 13 confirmation students. They are thoughtful, curious, and full of good questions. Watching them wrestle with faith, Scripture, and what it means to follow Jesus reminds me why this work matters. We also gather weekly for youth nights with our elementary-age kids in the community. It has become a wonderful space for laughter, conversation, and growing in faith together. Seeing young people build community and take ownership of their faith has been deeply encouraging.

I recently began my formal internship process, which marks an important last step in this journey toward ordained ministry. Internship brings together everything I am learning: academics, leadership, preaching, pastoral care, and allows me to practice ministry more intentionally under guidance and supervision. It is both exciting and stretching, and I feel grateful for the opportunity to continue growing.

I also want to say how much I appreciated the Valentine's goodies you sent. That package brought so much joy. It was a tangible reminder of your love and support, and it truly brightened my day during a busy season.

Please know that I continue to pray for Faith Lutheran Church with gratitude in my heart. You are part of my story and part of my calling. Thank you for walking with me in this season. I look forward to sharing more as this year unfolds, and I am always thankful when I am able to come home and worship with you.

With gratitude and love,
Jacqueline VanDenburg

March

Faith Lutheran Church, ELCA

2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Worship 9:30 am	2 Simple Way 3 & 5:30 pm	3	4 Quilting 9-noon Lent Lunch @ St. Paul's 12-1 Women's Study 6pm Soup Supper 6pm Holden Service 7pm	5	6	7 Spring Forward and set your clocks ahead 1 hour before bed!
8 Worship 9:30 am Daylight Savings Time Begins	9 Simple Way 3 & 5:30 pm	10	11 Lent Lunch @ 1 st Presb. 12-1 Soup Supper 6pm Holden Service 7pm	12	13	14
15 Worship 9:30 am	16 Simple Way 3 & 5:30 pm	17	18 Quilting 9 am-noon Lent Lunch @ UMAB 12-1 Soup Supper 6pm Holden Service 7pm	19 Men's Breakfast 9 am	20 Deadline to submit content for the newsletter	21
22 Worship 9:30 am	23 Simple Way 3 & 5:30 pm	24 Community Meal prep 1 pm serve 5 pm @ Cornerstone	25 Lent Lunch @ Corvallis Methodist 12-1 Soup Supper 6 pm Holden Service 7 pm	26	27	28
29 Palm Sunday Worship 9:30 am	30 Simple Way 3 & 5:30 pm	31	<p>SAVE THE DATE! VBS 2026 JULY 6-10 @ FAITH</p>			



Paul G. 5
Liz J. 5
Rod P. 5

Jerry C. 6
Marie L. 6
Claire S. 7
Sharon H. 8
Dirk B. 9
Mark G. 9
Gina O. 9

Jill T. 10
Tristan H. 12
Lin S. 15
Suzie D. 16
Colleen E. 16
Ani M. 16
Finn D. 24

Brian M. 25
Judy W. 24
Jana E. 26
Annalise L. 27
Denise L. 28
Ella D. 31
Donna M. 31