

# THE FAITH HERALD

## March 2025 NEWSLETTER



### 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

### CARE PACKAGES FOR OUR "KIDS"



### 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

Dear Friends and Members of FLC

Welcome to the season of Lent. Honestly, does it mean anything different in your daily life? I would guess the answer is “no” for most of us. In the church year, the season of Lent was often about sacrifice, spiritual discipline, and reflecting on your relationship with God. To be clear, I am still in favor of all these things. However, I am also a realist. The world we live in today is full of distraction. Finding moments to quiet the voices clamoring for our attention is a constant struggle.

I am a big believer in seeking out moments for reflection. Whether it is a walk, a quiet moment in the sanctuary, lingering over a cup of coffee, or soaking up a little sunshine sitting in the sunroom of our house for a moment. How we find those moments is often about our intention to do so. I love to be in and around people. The more, the better. Yet, I know there are needed moments in my own life when I am out of balance and in need of some quiet time to even out. The same is true in our relationship with God.

Finding moments to center; to reconnect; to reconsider; to be reminded of our relationship with God can provide us with the opportunity to move ourselves into a deeper, more intimate experience of the presence of God. This is what the season of Lent offers to us.

In Lent, we are invited to step out of our normal routines and step into different routines.

- Maybe use a devotional for reading and reflection through the days of Lent.
- Consider adding Sunday worship to your weekly routine through the entire five weeks of the season of Lent.
- Who are people who have inspired your life of faith? Commit to reaching out to thank them by phone or text message or, even, hand-written note during the season of Lent.

You can also consider joining us for our Ash Wednesday Service on March 5th, or our Wednesday night soup suppers and our Holden Evening Prayer Service following our supper that begins on March 12th at 6:00 PM. with worship beginning at 7:00 PM.

Dear friends, Lent is upon us. Find your center. Reconnect with God and people you love. Reconsider how you are spending your time. Be reminded that you are loved by God.

Partners in sharing God's grace,

Pastor Paul

# COUNCIL CORNER

March 2025



## Faith Memorial Rose Garden

*The best place to find God is in a garden. You can dig for him there. – George Bernard Shaw*

This is the time of year I am dreaming of my gardens and planning on how to improve them. Faith's Memorial Rose Garden is certainly in my sights. I want to share what was done and my plans for the future.

Four roses were added last year. They were in memory of **Dale Brady, Lynda Brady, Patricia Larson, and Gayle Lewis**. Thank you to their families who donated the money, and I hope we can say a prayer of thanksgiving to our Lord for bringing them into our lives.

We struggled a bit with weeding and upkeep, but it was better than the year before. A very special thank you to Susan Peterson and Jan Serfass who snuck over and donated their time to do much needed maintenance. I am also very grateful to Tim Peterson, Sprinkler Maniac, (Susan Peterson's son) and John Williams (my husband) for helping us with the irrigation needs. A special thank you to Carol Peterson for using the roses to brighten our altar and tables.

This year we hope it will be even better. My goal is to create a spiritual place that we all can use for prayer and contemplation. We desperately need our bench to be repaired. I am reaching out to any of you that have a talent for woodworking to complete the repairs and refinish it. I also extend an open invitation to anyone who would like to "dig for him (God) there" to please do so! Please call or text me at 406-370-0615 with questions, thoughts, and updates.

We will be adding and replacing roses again this year. We are happy to receive any donations. Those will be used to purchase a rose in memory of your loved one. Any amount would be appreciated, for your information, the cost of new rose is between \$45.00 and \$50.00.

Finally, and most importantly, please use the garden. May it greet and prepare you for worship and may it console and remind you that God is always supporting you. I love to catch the scent of roses (or any flowers) floating on a breeze. It seems to come from the heavens and makes me pause to say, "Thank you Lord for all of your blessings".

Welcome to Faith's Garden. Claudia Williams

### 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](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)



# What's Up At FAITH



## LENTEN SOUP SUPPER & EVENING HOLDEN PRAYER SERVICE

Beginning Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> we will be having soup suppers at 6 pm followed by an Evening Holden Prayer Services at 7 pm through the Lent season. Please join us on Wednesdays for one or both. All are welcome.

## COMMUNITY MEALS

Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> will be the next time Faith volunteers prepare a Community 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.

## 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 2025

Our congregation outdid themselves this year with a whopping 286 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. Mother Theresa said, "If you can't feed a hundred people, then just feed one.

With much appreciation, Jan Serfass

## THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Do you have Thrivent Financial products? You may have Thrivent Choice dollars that you can allocate toward any number of charities and service organizations. These dollars need to be allocated by you before March 31st each year. If you do not allocate your dollars, they go into a general fund that is then used as matching dollars for disaster relief or other fund generating efforts by Thrivent. You can allocate your dollars online or by phoning Thrivent at 800-847-4836. Some of the local organizations you can allocate your dollars to are: Montana Food Bank Network, Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, Habitat for Humanity Ravalli County, Faith Lutheran Church Hamilton, Emmaus Campus Ministry, Lutheran World Relief, and more through searching on the Thrivent website or asking on the phone.

## We Remember Ben Essary



On a Sunday morning all who heard Pastor Paul's announcement that Ben Essary had left us for heaven were shocked. It was hard news to hear and we grieve.

Ben was rather new to us and had come to worship with us soon after his wife's death. Pastor Paul's care for he and his family had opened the door to Faith for Ben. He took us all into his heart and soon became emerged in the ministry of Faith. He listened to the need for worship assistants and signed up on the usher list where he served often.

He was asked to help with offering counting and without hesitation said "yes" where he and others became the "guy counting group". Relationships were established in that group.

Ben learned of Ron Heppner's need for a 'driver' after Ron's daughter Lisa moved to Hawaii and he answered the call. Ron and Ben established a relationship on that ride back and forth to the Remington and, along with a new need for a 'driver,' missed him terribly.

We all learned from Ben in the short time he worshipped with us and we all thank God and Pastor Paul for bringing him to us. We look forward to a formal "good-by" when the time is right for his family.

# LENTEN LUNCHES

Join us for Good Soup and Lenten Conversation  
Wednesdays in Lent from 11:30am to 1pm

This year we'll discuss Adam Hamilton's "Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws." Books are available for a \$15 suggested donation. Weekly meals are free and provided by the church host.

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MARCH 12 @ FIRST PRESBYTERIAN - CH 1 & 2

MARCH 19 @ FAITH LUTHERAN - CH 3

MARCH 26 @ FIRST PRESBYTERIAN - CH 4

APRIL 2 @ FEDERATED (UMAB) - CH 5

APRIL 9 @ CORVALLIS UMC - CH 6

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Contact First Presbyterian Church (406-363-1232) for more information

# March

Faith Lutheran Church, ELCA

2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Worship 9:30 am	3 Simple Way (WW) 3 & 5:30 pm	4	5 Quilting 9 am-noon  Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm	6	7	8  Set your clocks ahead 1 hour
9 Worship 9:30 am  Spring Forward Daylight Savings Time Begins	10 Simple Way (WW) 3 & 5:30 pm	11	12 Soup Supper 6 pm Evening Holden Prayer Service 7 pm	13	14	15
16 Worship 9:30 am	17 Simple Way (WW) 3 & 5:30 pm	18 Council Mtg. 5:30 pm	19 Quilting 9 am-noon  Soup Supper 6 pm Evening Holden Prayer Service 7 pm	20 Men's Breakfast 9am	21	22
23 Worship 9:30 am	24 Simple Way (WW) 3 & 5:30 pm	25 Comm. Meal Prep 1 pm Serve 5-6 pm @ Cornerstone	26 Soup Supper 6 pm Evening Holden Prayer Service 7 pm	27	28	29
30 Worship 9:30 am  Family Faith Formation study & dinner 5-7 pm	31 Simple Way (WW) 3 & 5:30 pm					

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



Chris W.	1	Dirk B.	9	Ani M.	16	Jana E.	26
Paul G.	5	Mark G.	9	Claudia W.	19	Annalise L.	27
Elizabeth J.	5	Gina O.	9	Dean R.	20	Denise L.	28
Rod P.	5	Jill T.	10	Megan L.	23	Ella D.	21
Jerry C.	6	Tristan H.	12	Anna S.	23	Donna M.	31
Marie L.	6	Lin S.	15	Finn D.	24		
Claire S.	7	Suzie D.	16	Brian M.	25		
Sharon H.	8	Colleen E.	16	Judy W.	25		