



FAITH ALIVE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMC

From Pastor's Heart

He is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia! We are in the midst of the Easter season and will be celebrating our Lord's resurrection until the middle of May. Now, for those that don't know, Easter is always the Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox on March 21. This full moon may happen on any date between March 21 and April 18 inclusive. If the full moon falls on a Sunday, Easter is the Sunday following. Therefore, Easter cannot be earlier than March 22 or later than April 25.

Now, when writing a newsletter, there are literally millions of topics to choose from. But even with that many, there are times I don't always know what God would like me to write. My system for writing really isn't too scientific. I usually observe what time or season of the year we are in. Is there a holiday or special time in the church to focus on? Is there something special or significant happening in or with our church that calls for writing about? If I have no specific answer to these questions, I take time out with God in prayer and in reading of scripture. But every once in a great while something happens that is totally by chance (or seems to be).

This morning, as I began the process of looking through things, I ran across a picture that I forgot that I had saved to use. It was yellow with reddish printing on it. As I looked at this picture it became quite clear to me that this small square picture was going to be the catalyst for this

letter to my brothers and sisters in Christ.

In the past few months, and through GriefShare, I have been in contact with numerous people who, for many and various reasons, have been going through some very difficult times. Some are dealing with the loss of loved ones. Some have lost their jobs. Others have been struggling through situations in their employment that have caused

Repair Patch
 Clear, self-adhesive patch for repairing punctures

In the event of an accidental puncture, cut out a suitable size patch. Make sure you round the corners of your repair patch to avoid peeling. Make sure the area to be patched is clean and dry. Press patch firmly over the puncture. Do not inflate for 20 minutes.

them to question if it is even worthwhile staying employed. Money is tighter than ever before. There are friends and loved ones who are sick; some to the point of death. Marriages are struggling. Children are rebelling. Relationships have been severed. The devil seems to tempt us at every turn in an effort to cause us to fail.

Now God is using these things and tests to increase our faith and strengthen our relationship with Him. The tests aren't always easy either! When we stray, He disciplines us in love. But the discipline seems strict and, at times, even stings a bit. Let's face it — life is hard sometimes.

Wouldn't it be great if we had a repair patch that would take our wounds and our struggles and do what the advertisement

says, "Repair"? Take a look at the patch/picture on this page. Read it as though you were reflecting on yourself as described above. So some part of your life has sustained a "puncture." You need repairing. You need healing. And the point of this letter is to make sure you know that YOU HAVE IT! God came into our world by sending our Savior Jesus Christ. Now Jesus, who is the "Way" and the "Truth" and the "Life," lived as a human and dealt with trials and temptations like you and me. His suffering and death on the cross was to give healing and restoration to all mankind. And to all who believe, he has given the power to become the children of God. By his wounds you and I are healed.

Now back to the patch. The price Jesus paid was a perfect fit for you and your sins. The price Jesus paid was a perfect showing of God's love. Now put on Christ. Avoid the temptation to "go-it-alone" and have the patch peel off. As the directions read, "Make sure the area to be patched is clean and dry," just go to God with an open and honest, "hiding nothing," heart. Finally, give things some time. While it is true that God can and at times does repair instantly, often times God heals in time. So don't "inflate" too soon.

Now this leads to another big thing that has been on my mind and has been a focus of my ministry here at Faith Lutheran. Let me share that with you: MISSION. Now for generations, we Lutherans have had it drilled into our heads that we are

justified (that means “just as if I’d never sinned”) by grace, for Jesus Christ’s sake, through faith. All of this is apart from our good works, which does not gain for us faith. Let’s look at it this way. Because of Jesus’ death on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins, and his rising from the grave, which shows us that the payment was paid in full and shows us that we too will rise with him. Now all of this means that Jesus defeated sin, death, and the devil, so that by grace through faith we may have eternal life and receive all the wondrous gifts that comes from that faith. And as Luther would say: This is most certainly true.

Now, there is another side of the coin, because of all of this there is something that perhaps we have overlooked or forgotten. Because we are saved by grace, we need to be responding to that faith with good works, that is we have a PURPOSE IN OUR LIFE or MISSION. Our mission is to love God, our neighbors (which are both our friends and enemies) and ourselves. As Matthew 22:37-39 states: “[Jesus] said to him,

‘You shall love the Lord your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

At some Lutheran churches you might see a sign that reads: Now Entering the Mission Field. Jesus has described our mission as us going out into our communities, our cities, our nation, and to the ends of the earth, to make disciples by baptizing and teaching everyone what Jesus has taught (Matthew 28:18-20).

Therefore, our MISSION is to build relationships with believers and non-believers, so that people may come to know God the Father through Jesus his Son and through us, the Body of Christ in the world. Now, you might be saying to yourself, “But, Pastor, we open our doors on Sunday morning and are very friendly to any visitors that might come.” So the thinking goes that by being friendly and a human family is enough for us to do.

But are we overflowing with members? No! Then we must not be doing what Jesus taught us to

do! Jesus did not teach us to just be nice or friendly on Sunday mornings. Yes we are to do that, but we are to be building relationships throughout the rest of the week with others, especially those who don’t know Jesus. And the reason for this is that Jesus taught us to love one another as he loved us. He taught us to do unto others as we would want done to us. You see, love is not passive. Love is proactive. Therefore, our MISSION must be proactive. Now we start out small with just having a friendly conversation about everyday life. And then when the Holy Spirit opens the door you share your faith in Jesus Christ, that is you share your story of what God means to you because of what Jesus has done for you. You see it’s simple, but we did need to listen to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Therefore my friends, it is now time to start thinking about the future, especially the future of Faith Lutheran Church.

May the Lord bless us as we get to working on God’s mission for Faith.

Pastor Alsen

Visit our website:
www.FaithLutheranGF.com
for our up-to-date Church Calendar.



Women of Faith

Dear Women of Faith & Faith Lutheran,

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous support of **Victim-Witness Assistance Services** and the children and families we serve. It is difficult to fully express just how grateful we are for your kindness and generosity. Your recent donation touched our hearts in a way that words can hardly capture.

The items you so thoughtfully gathered will bring comfort to children during some of the most difficult moments of their lives. When a child walks through our doors after experiencing abuse, the world can feel overwhelming and uncertain. Something as simple as a comforting item can help them feel safe, cared for, and not alone. Because of you our advocates are better able to offer those small but powerful moments of peace and reassurance.

Your unexpected **financial gift of \$655** was truly moving. Beyond the immediate support it provides, it serves as a reminder that our community stands beside these children and believes in their healing. You are part of that journey now, and that is something truly meaningful.

Thank you to April Hall for inviting me to share space with such a lovely group of women and to you all for being so inviting. And more importantly, thank you for seeing these children, for caring so deeply, and for making such a lasting difference in our community.

With deep gratitude,
Nichole Griffith



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Faith Lutheran,
Thank you so very much for the gift for our roof project!

We are making amazing progress and are so very thankful for the prayers and gifts from our LCMC family!

Thank you and God bless you all!

Love, Your St. Paul Church Family in Kodiak, Alaska

Faith Lutheran Church,
Thank you for supporting **Lutheran Bible Translators**.

Your gift (\$1,000) invests in the Bible translation movement around the world. More people will experience the hope, life, and transformation that Scripture brings.

God's Blessings,
Rev. Dr. Rich Rudowske, Executive Director

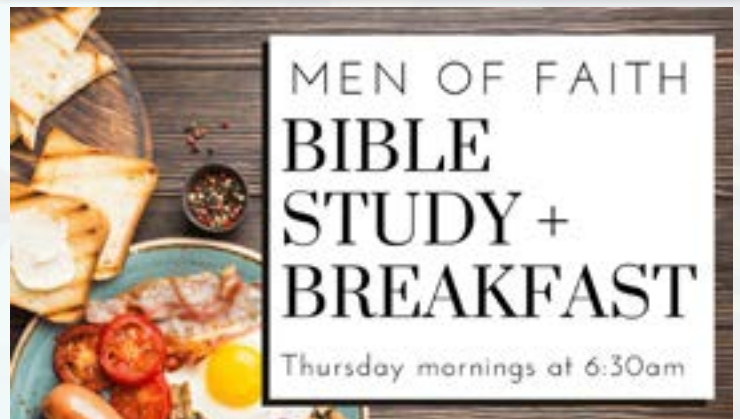
Thank you for **your gift (\$1,860.50)** to the ministry of **Samaritan's Purse**.

In Liberia, Samaritan's Purse recently dug a well at Monrovia Central Prison and taught inmates how to maintain its mechanical system. One inmate named

Prince was excited to learn these skills, but most importantly, he heard the Gospel and was given a Bible.

We praise God he repented of his sins and came to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ!

Sincerely, Franklin Graham



As We Love God, Love Others and Serve the World

Pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. - Philippians 4:6
NLT

We've been blessed with a multitude of events and classes. Please know that everyone is welcome. Invite your family and friends so we can share the love of Jesus Christ with our entire community.

GriefShare classes continue on Thursday afternoons at 1:00 p.m. This session concludes on May 28. As soon as I know when the next session will be, I'll let you know. If you're interested please contact me.

The Biblical Citizenship classes have begun. This is an 8-week course, there are two class times available. One is on Sundays at 11:00 am with Steve Sem. The other is Thursday nights at 6:00 pm with Pastor Alsen Wenzel. You can sign up by scanning the QR code or contact the church office (406) 454-1309, outreach.faith.lcmc@gmail.com. Your friends and family are welcome to join us.

Sundays, Starting
April 26 @ 11 AM



Thursdays, Starting
April 30 @ 6 PM



Young Adults Connect had their first get together on April 12. Jay Gregg our music director is heading this group and will give us more information as it becomes available. You can contact Jay at (719) 644-5122 or jaygregg2013@gmail.com. This is a group for ages 18-thirtysomething.

We had a pretty good attendance from our congregation at the Great Falls Rescue Mission annual banquet. Pastor Ken Waag is now a member of their board. We're blessed to have these

facilities here in Great Falls. The guest speaker was Tony Cloud from Billings. My husband Bob and I also attended the seminar that Tony gave the next day at Antioch Church. It is called Safe Sacred Spaces, empowering people of faith to care for those experiencing mental health challenges. One in four people who seek mental health help seek out a faith leader or faith community before other professionals. There were mental health professionals at the event that we connected with so we can share that information.

Our bulletin board and connection center has information about upcoming luncheons with speakers put on by Christ's Ambassadors (Formerly Early Risers). It will be hosted at New City Church and is \$15/luncheon, \$55 for the series of 4, or \$400 to sponsor a table (includes 8 seats for all 4 events). The dates are Thursdays at 11:30 am, May 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2026.

The staff has begun using Planning Center online. This will give us the ability to use with a kiosk, computer and smart phone app. It'll give us one place that everyone will be able to sign up for events, volunteering, and classes. The staff will use it to keep the volunteers and members organized.

If you're interested in joining the Hospitality Team let me know. This is to connect with visitors when they come to Sunday services or any other events that we're inviting the community to.

Blessings,
Colleen Palmer,
Community Outreach
Coordinator

A Word About Worship

Hi Faith Lutheran!

The Easter Cantata was very compelling and allowed us to reflect on our faith as we approached the Easter season. Thank you to the choir, Elaine, Bob, and Monica for their dedication and for sharing their musical gifts with this church. I was very moved by the time of worship together.

I was reading through Psalm 81 the other day and was struck by the first verses:

"Sing praises to God, our strength.
Sing to the God of Jacob.
Sing! Beat the tambourine.
Play the sweet lyre and the harp.

Blow the ram's horn at new moon,
and again at full moon to call a festival!

For this is required by the decrees of
Israel;

it is a regulation of the God of Jacob.

He made it a law for Israel
when he attacked Egypt to set us free."

- Psalm 81:1-5a (NLT)

We are called to celebrate what God has done by making music unto Him. Our creation of music can reflect what God first created.

Blessings,

Jay Henry Gregg, Music Director



Youth and Family/Education Team

May flowers are a beautiful reminder of Christian values. Their bright, cheerful colors remind us to share joy, help others, and reflect God's love in everything we do. Just as flowers need time, care, and nourishment to grow, we grow in faith by being kind, patient, and loving—and by spending time in God's Word. Each day brings a new opportunity to show that love to everyone we meet.

As I write this article, our family movie night for April is quickly approaching. This month's feature film is **The King of Kings**, and we're excited to pair it with a **special May Day basket craft on April 25th**. During the event, families will create May Day baskets together—simple gifts meant to share kindness and joy. These baskets will then be delivered on May 1st to homes surrounding the church to bless our neighbors.

Sunday School will be wrapping up for the school year on **Sunday, May 17th**. It has been a wonderful and fun-filled year! We will finish our lessons by continuing to learn about the growth of the church after Jesus' resurrection, as told in the book of Acts. **On May 17th**, we will celebrate with end-of-year fun! We hope all the children can join us for a special time filled with games, crafts, and lots of fun.

A dedicated group of youth recently presented the skit **"Breaking News – Jesus Is Alive"** during our Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter services. Their performances were engaging and meaningful, and they did an outstanding job sharing this powerful message. We look forward to the final presentation of the skit **on Ascension Sunday, May 17th**. Special thanks to Alex Shabaan, Gabriel Shabaan, Chance Stone, Elena Wilson, Elodie Stubbs, Kami Stone, and Pastor Alsen for their time, effort, and heartfelt presentation.

Vacation Bible School 2026 – June 22-26 from 5:30-8:30 pm – Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God. We are still **seeking volunteers**—there are many ways to get involved! Please prayerfully consider being part of this special week. If you're interested or would like more information, **contact me—I'd love to help you find a place to serve!** Join us for an exciting week of faith and fun at Faith's VBS! VBS is open to children **ages 3 (preschool) through those entering 6th grade**. Each evening includes engaging activities, meaningful lessons, and dinner will be provided. Students in **7th grade and up** are invited to participate as crew leaders and assistants, making this a great opportunity to serve and grow.

Volunteers are always welcome to support our youth and family ministries! If you're interested in helping with Sunday School, Confirmation, High School Youth, or family events, we would love to have you join us. Please contact me at (406) 590-1061 or reach out to the church office for more information.

The **Education Team** will meet on **Wednesday, May 13th at 6:00 pm**. All are welcome to attend.

God bless,

Annette Hocker, Youth & Family Coordinator

"Breaking News – Jesus is Alive"



May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
First Sunday Special Offering: Toby's House						
Third Sunday Special Offering: Habitat for Humanity						
3 8:30 am Bible Study 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Kids SS 11 am Confirmation 11 am Biblical Citizen	4 6 pm Praise Team	5 10 am Staff Meeting 1:30 pm Constitutional 5:30 pm Music/Worship	6 10 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Men of Faith 5:30 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Choir Practice	7 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9 am Love Day Quilters 1 pm Grief Share 6 pm Biblical Citizen	8	9
10 8:30 am Bible Study 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Mother's Day Luncheon 10:45 am Kids SS 11 am Confirmation 11 am Biblical Citizen	11 6 pm Praise Team	12 10 am Staff Meeting 11:30 am Soulo Sisters 1:30 pm Constitutional 6 pm Personnel	13 9 am Finance Meeting 11 am Bible Study 4 pm Property Team 5:30 pm Bell Choir 6 pm Youth Ed Team 6:30 pm Choir Practice	14 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 10 am LCMC Pastors 1 pm Grief Share 6 pm Biblical Citizen	15	16
17 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Kids SS 11 am Confirmation 11 am Biblical Citizen	18 6 pm Praise Team	19 10 am Staff Meeting 1:30 pm Constitutional 5:30 pm Council Meeting	20 10 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Choir Practice	21 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 1 pm Grief Share 6 pm Biblical Citizen	22	23
24 9:30 am Worship 11 am Confirmation 11 am Biblical Citizen 4 pm Women's Crafting	25 Memorial Day Office Closed 6 pm Praise Team	26 10 am Staff Meeting 1:30 pm Constitutional	27 10 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Choir Practice	28 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 1 pm Grief Share 6 pm Biblical Citizen	29	30
31 9:30 am Worship 11 am Confirmation 11 am Biblical Citizen						

SOULO SISTERS



May 12th at 11:30
at 3D Club

Who Are the Soulo Sisters?

If you are widowed or single please join us for Soulo Sisters. We meet for lunch the second Tuesday of the month at various eateries. PLEASE JOIN US!

Love Day Quilters News

It's almost time for leaves to start popping on trees, and gardens to be planted, but we enjoy putting together quilts one day each month to give away in December. Many hands make light work, great fun, and good friendships.

Thank you, Marilyn Nesemeier, for the delicious and lovely Easter treats. Newcomers are always welcome!

- Augie Records

Love Day Quilters

Thursday, May 7th,
at 9am

Women's Crafting

Sunday, May 24th at 4 pm

Fellowship, Laughter, Devotions,
& Prayer

Bring your own craft

or use supplies provided by the group.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 22-26, 2026
5:30 - 8:30 PM



Coming Soon!

Single Adults Sunday Dinners

Beginning May 17th

4:30 pm

Watch your bulletins for
further details.

IN NEED OF PRAYER?

If you're in need of prayer, please contact the church office. We can add you or your family members to our prayer chain and/or weekly prayer list.

MAY SERVICE GROUP

As a way of serving each other, Faith Lutheran is refreshing our monthly Service Groups. The following are being asked to be available in the month of April. If a need arises for a funeral or wedding we will call you from the church office.

We are also asking the Service Groups to help with set up and clean up for Sunday Fellowships. The treats are provided by the church. You are welcome to bring in treats to share as well.

Thank you to each of you for giving your time and talents to help at Faith Lutheran.

- Linda Albro
- John Gass
- Irene Ghekiere
- Dave and Donna Herdina
- Pat Strand

May Anniversaries

2: Chris & Cindy Reiquam

May Birthdays

2: Lynn Dittler
4: Deborah Bern
Lorna Kennedy
5: Rod Thorne
9: Gabe Cunningham
11: Charlotte Brady
13: Christine Sem
16: Monica Fournier
17: Sherry Friebth
23: Robbie Stubbs
28: Gene Bern
Don Morss
29: Pat Fournier
Ione Gruss
Ron Steffens
30: Warren Mayes



Note: If you're not listed on the birthday list, please call the office at 406-454-1309 or email us:

FaithLutheran.gtf@gmail.com.

We love wishing all our congregational members a very happy day!

So, please, make sure your name and correct date are on the list!

Amusing Music “Tidbits” From Elaine ☺

HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!
ALLELUIA!

I greet you all with prayers that you had a wonderful Easter! All the services were totally awesome but I was ready to take a nap Sunday afternoon!

Now as we head into “May Flowers” with more memories, the following is not of me playing but dealing with music at my father’s Celebration of Life service. Now God was smiling when this happened almost 25 years ago.

A little background info of my hometown area. Linton, North Dakota was (and still is) a strong German community. When Dad passed, I just knew it was because he had a golf date with God and Jesus! I didn’t play for the service and the organist that did was a friend of the family and she was great! Now back then—normally when the family processes into the pews—it’s the spouse, the children ‘oldest to youngest’ then relatives. Our family had four girls (twins 10 years older than me), myself, and my younger sister. Then there was one brother—the “baby boy”!

So we decided to mix things up. Mom and my brother and family sat in the front pew; next was my younger sister and family. Then in the second pew was myself, Rick and Christopher (sitting behind younger sister) then the younger

twin and family next to me. In the third pew was the older twin and family (sitting behind me).

I was the only one who played piano all my life. The others gave it up after a few years. Anyway, the service was going nicely, when two German gentlemen came up to the podium to sing a song. They sang in unison “Under the Sunset Mountain”. I know that piece because I have a piano version of it. Well, they began to sing—now you need to put on your ‘imagination hats’ on and ‘hear’ this. Imagine a swooping roller coaster on every note! If you want an example of it, come up and I’ll demonstrate some time! ☺ Anyway, I began to “giggle”—don’t worry—Rick was giggling right with me!

All of a sudden I feel this poking on my back from the older twin sister. I glanced back and she was smirking! I jabbed the younger twin sister beside me and she was smirking! Now in front of me was my younger sister, bawling her eyes out. I leaned forward and poked her and whispered “Listen to them”! She didn’t care—she’s also known as our family drama queen! I did not see my mother or brother.

After the service and reception, we all drove to Bismarck to the Veteran’s Memorial cemetery...

which also became a story in and of itself! (It was mid-November in North Dakota.)

We all stayed at a hotel before heading home in the morning. Two families were driving back to Montana, three + families were flying back to Arizona. It was a very nice family reunion under somber circumstances.

Well, I meandered into Mom’s room. She and my brother were going through the cards. All of a sudden they asked “What did you think of those singers?” I froze thinking—“I’m busted!” I gently asked ‘why?’ They were grinning and said that as soon as the singers began, they leaned into each other and whispered “Wonder what Elaine is thinking!”

After I exhaled, I told them what I had done. We all had a good laugh and just knew Dad was laughing too!

Even though I wasn’t playing the organ this time, God made sure that He had ‘other plans’...as I’m sure He was chuckling as well!

I pray that this memory brings fond and funny memories for you as you remember events. Just know that God has blessed you with your memories and loved ones, along with a few giggles to lighten your heart.

Musically in Christ,
Elaine

FISH News

We would like to thank the following volunteers who worked FISH for the week of March 30 thru April 3 - Jerry and Pearl Miller, Mike Abbott, Carol Dawson, Jeanie Thomas, Pat Fournier, Sue Ferrin, Rex and Anne Derr, Augie Records, and Gary Gilko. Due to the holiday on Good Friday that week, we only volunteered four days.

We served seven families consisting of 11 adults and four children.

We distributed 492 pounds of food. We at Faith Lutheran are very blessed by your willingness to serve in this ministry. The next opportunity to serve at FISH is June 8-12.

Thank you all!

Ron Pfeifle and Sandy Matthews, Co-Chairs.





1300 Ferguson Drive
Great Falls, MT 59404
Telephone: (406) 454-1309
Web: www.faithlutheranGF.com

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage **PAID**
Great Falls, Montana
Permit No. 477

Change Service Requested

CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor:	Pastor Alsen Wenzel
Secretary/Office Manager:	Cindy Fowell
Bookkeeper:	Nicole LaMere
Custodian:	Kristina Cochran
IT Manager:	John Plank
Outreach Coordinator:	Colleen Palmer
Youth & Family Coordinator:	Annette Hocker
Music Director:	Jay Gregg

CURRENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

President - Fred Burow	
Vice President - Tammie Klinker-Mayes	
Secretary - Mellissa Severson-Hampton	
Jim Brown	Bob Stubbs
Fay Stokes	Tom Gruss
Rex Derr	Adam Dahlman
Crystal Dunn	Deb Schwandt
Carl Dunn	John Gass

OFFICE HOURS:

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday

Our monthly calendar is on our website!

Phone: (406) 454-1309

Faithlutheran.gtf@gmail.com

www.faithlutherangf.com



THIS IS THE JOURNEY OF FAITH.

