



PO Box 1259, Livingston
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ALC April 2024 Newsletter



Growing New Life

Dear Children of God at ALC,

As we enter into the season of Easter, we celebrate the new life that we have through Jesus' death and resurrection. And as spring (hopefully!) arrives, we will see signs of new life all around us.

I'm really excited that I was able to get a community garden plot for this year at the Lincoln School through Farm to School of Park County. I'm excited to see what I can grow in my garden plot. I'm always amazed to see what new life can come when a small seed is planted in the soil. When I really think about it, the whole process of how plants grow and produce fruit (or vegetables) is miraculous. I'm also looking forward to meeting my community garden plot neighbors. It will be good to meet some other people in this town and form friendships with other like-minded people.

The thought of the new life of Easter and Spring is also making me think about the new life emerging at ALC in many ways.

I have seen new life in the way people's faith and relationship with God are deepening. I've especially seen people growing in their understanding and experience of God through our weekly Bible study and Spiritual Practices groups. We are discovering together just how much God has to reveal to us. Through adult education after worship and council retreats, congregation members have been stepping outside of their comfort zones and have been amazed by what they have learned and the new perspectives on their faith and church they have gained.

I have also seen new life in deepening relationships between members of the congregation as well as new and deeper relationships between people in the congregation and people in our broader community. The Faithful Innovation team is modeling

for us the importance of listening to each other and listening to our community as we build these relationships.

I also see new life at our church through the three non-profits that are already regularly using space in our church. Soon Elevate Montessori will begin using a couple of classrooms in our church building for their infant class. New life is literally coming into our building! I think about these classrooms that once served as a place for Sunday School children will again be filled with the laughter and joy (and probably some crying, too) of children. What a beautiful thing for us to be able to open up our space for these non-profits who are serving our community as well as Elevate Montessori who is providing much needed childcare for our community.

As you see those flowers pushing up through the soil and the trees beginning to bud and flower, think about the new life that we have through Jesus. And I invite you to wonder about what new life God might have in store for you personally and for us as a church.

Peace,
Pastor Melissa



The Family of LoAnne Frisk
Randy and Linda Holland
Mike and Vicky Ryles
Carole Fagerli
Anita Bueling
Lynnette Evanson
Carol O'Dell Bea Huber
Holly Happe Mollie Waldum

Growing through Changing and Updating

I want to thank the congregation for the positive vote regarding the installation of 12 new windows. I am excited to think about the upcoming changes to our building. If all goes well, we should be seeing the removal of the old windows from the sanctuary and windows on the north side of the main floor education wing towards the end of April. With the new windows will come additional light, ventilation, and safety egress in the rooms we are renting out. It will be great to have windows that are up to date and energy efficient. This is an investment that is needed, and we will benefit from the investment for many years.

I also have news regarding some electrical work that was completed on the main floor education wing as well. We recently hired Dark Zero Electric, at a very reasonable price, to update the outlets in the rooms and the hallway. The electricians were able to change the outdated outlets to the three-prong type. In addition, they updated the labeling of the electrical panels in the hallway. It is these steps of being thoughtful about what needs to be done to our building and then moving forward with a plan to achieve those changes. Little by little we are making progress in taking care of the needs of our place.

Please save the date on your calendar! On Sunday, April 14th we will be having a special congregational meeting regarding a proposed change to Pastor Melissa's work. This will be a ballot vote, but you must be present to vote according to our bylaws. As I have mentioned in my letter to the congregation, the proposal is to increase her time with us to three-quarters from her current half-time. With an increase in hours, she would be able to work on areas and projects that are simply not possible due to time limitations. This will mean an increase in her overall compensation package from \$52,271.00 to \$73,647.00. Overall, for the entire year it would be an increase of \$21,376.00. If the proposal is approved, Pastor Melissa would begin to serve in a three-quarter capacity starting Mid-May. So, for the remainder of the year, her compensation package would increase by \$13,360.00.

I appreciate those of you who have reached out to me confidentially regarding the proposal for Pastor Melissa. We have had a meeting after church on March 24th to discuss this as well. If you still have questions or concerns about the proposal, please don't hesitate to contact me via phone or email. I would be happy to talk with you.

I believe this is an opportunity that our congregation should seize. The areas of growth in our congregation in terms of our faith journey, individually and as a church, will only be enhanced through this change. There is always a risk when we change, but I know that God is with us now and will be as we move forward.

Yours in Christ,
Randy Mogen

April Birthdays



- 3 Lynnette Evanson
- 5 Theresa Gilman
- 13 John Barthuly
- 14 Wayne Fink
- 14 Butch Foster
- 27 Charlie Mogen
- 28 Olga Mogen
- 30 Verne Beffert
- 30 John West

Pews

Would you like a piece of ALC history for your home? The extra pews that were removed from the back of the sanctuary are now available to ALC members for a suggested minimum donation of \$200. You will need to arrange to remove the pew(s) from the far classroom on the 3rd floor. There are 12 pews available. Please let Pastor Melissa know if you would like a pew.

Lutheran World Relief Quilting

QUILTS: Please pray for the recipients of these quilts that are on display in the sanctuary. The quilts were created by our local hands for Lutheran World Relief and will remain in the sanctuary until they are shipped to those in need. Please join us on Tuesdays from 9-12 to help us finish more quilts for this ministry.



Touching Lives

This weekend {Mar. 23} we went to a funeral of a young woman who left us way too soon and left us searching for answers. The minister repeatedly talked about finding peace in our lives and sharing it with one another. Every Sunday at ALC we hug and share the peace maybe not really thinking about what a loving gesture that is.

For us the most memorable part of this service was when the young woman's mother took the podium and spoke about the value of human life; especially in our crazy mixed-up world. She encouraged us to be more PRO-LIFE and PRO-PEACE. She challenged us to think of ways that would bring more contentment into our lives and share it with others. "What could I do today that would make someone's life better tomorrow?"

Be aware of ways that others exhibit sadness and discontent. Do they hesitate to join in for visiting and sharing with others? This mother {hurting as she was} was charging us with demands of showing our love for others by giving passionate hugs and also by making thoughtful eye contact with our hurting friends. Be there for them and DON'T LET UP!

We are living in a hurting world and when we join hands and hearts, we can really SHARE OUR LOVE!

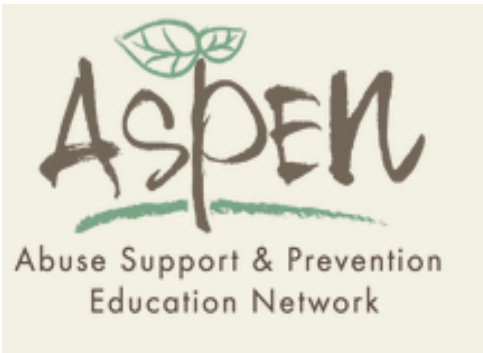
GOD BLESS AND KEEP YOU ALL.

Dale and Gloria



Benevolence

March benevolence went to LCM Campus Ministry at Montana State University in Bozeman, MT.



April benevolence will go to ASPEN. ASPEN, abuse support & prevention education network, serves the residents of Park, Sweet Grass, and Meagher Counties of Montana, but also extends our services to anyone in a situation of

domestic or sexual violence who are fleeing an abusive situation and need assistance. These services include an emergency Safe House, a 24-hour support line, crisis counseling, support groups, legal advocacy, information and referrals, safety planning, emergency 911 phones, assistance with Orders of Protection and/or law enforcement reporting, forensic medical exam support, community outreach and educational programs, and health and wellness activities.

Council Minutes Summary from March 3, 2024

- Consider attending either Bible Study or Spiritual Practices or both!
- The audit committee of Verne Beffert, Joan Mogen, and Karla Petit will be meeting soon.
- A congregation meeting on March 3 approved the replacement of some of the windows on the main floor. This will be paid out of the ELCA Money Market fund.
- Some of the electrical outlets will be updated to 3 prong outlets. This will be paid for out of the ALC Mission Endowment Fund.
- Discussion is starting regarding increasing Pastor Melissa to $\frac{3}{4}$ time. A congregation discussion was on March 24 and the vote is scheduled for Sunday, April 14. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Randy Mogen.

Agape Circle



The Agape Circle is a women's Bible study that meets monthly either at church or in group member's homes. The group uses the Bible study out of the Gather magazine. The next gathering will be Thursday, April 25 at 7:00 pm at Bea Huber's home, 1310 Wineglass Ave.

Loaves & Fishes

We continue to serve the evening meal at Loaves and Fishes on the third Monday of each month (that's **April 15th** this month). We served 58 meals in March. If you would be willing to help, please let Pastor Melissa or Cookie Linsted know or just come down to Loaves & Fishes at 10am and/or 3:30pm.



Shout Outs!!

A Shout Out and thank you to those who are making a difference in our community and church! These people and their stewardship are examples of God's loving grace. (Remember you can submit something for the shout outs at any time to alclivingston@gmail.com).



Shout out to...

- ❖ John West and Verne Beffert who have cleaned off our walks during the our sporadic snow storms.
- ❖ Thank you to all the folks who brought the delicious soup and bread. A round of applause for Dale & Gloria Guidi, Bonnie & Jim Evanson, Kitty and Dennis Springer, Gary & Annette Hart, Don & Lana Sheen, John & Diane West, Curt & Dee Gosda, and Verne & Leslie Beffert. Really appreciated are the folks who took dietary concerns in hand to make sure everyone could partake.
- ❖ Our amazing worship teams! They set up for service and provide us with nutritious snacks afterwards.
- ❖ Nancy Curtis. We are so blessed to have a mini-concert week after week. That is one talented lady!
- ❖ Those helping Pastor Melissa on 5th Sundays. This year there is an inordinate number of 5th Sundays, so the help is especially appreciated. Not to mention, we get to hear the wisdom of other congregants.
- ❖ Randy Mogen and Lana Sheen. These two do so much work behind the scenes. Randy has been overseeing contractors. Lana is here weekly updating something or another, you know those little projects that you should always get done, but don't? That's Lana!
- ❖ Candy Parks for stepping in to accompany our worship services when needed.
- ❖ Dennis Harms for making the beautiful new table in the hallway by the main church office.
- ❖ Jane Haugen & Dana Latsch who always make the sanctuary look amazing for the Easter season.



ALC/WELCA is teaming up with Lutheran World Relief. This Lent, we are putting God's love in action by making Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits. The gifts you give are an immeasurable blessing to families around the world. We want to announce to the world that Christ makes a new season possible: **A Season of Hope**. We are excited to engage in this project as a church community during our Lenten journey. Check out the items you may donate for this worthy project.

Personal Care Kits

- 2-3 bars of soap, 4 to 5 oz, any brand, in original wrapping
- 1 adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- 1 sturdy comb
- 1 metal nail clippers
- 1 light-weight bath-size towel (between 20"X40" & 52"X 27") dark color recommended

Visit lwr.org/buyinbulk for a list of resources to help you buy supplies in bulk. Your donations may be dropped off in the basket at the rear of the sanctuary. **Thank You** for sharing your love with our neighbors in need and letting them know they are not alone.

April Worship Teams

- April 7 Billie Roberts, Anna Smith,
& Karla Pettit
- April 14 Billie Kaye Harms,
Gary & Annette Hart
- April 21 Verne & Leslie Beffert
- April 28 Dennis & Kitty Springer



Christikon Benefit Auction In Person and Online



Christikon Benefit Auction – Quilts, Vacation Get-aways, and a Whole Lot More will be on Sunday

April 21st at the Billings Depot. Items are some of the finest artistry including a variety of hand-made quilts, art work, gift baskets, getaways, jewelry and so much more.

Raffle Tickets on sale now! Camp Suburban! Go to <https://christikon.org/donate-to-christikon-one-time/>, choose gift: other and put raffle in the text box. Do not have to be present to win.

April 19th Online auction begins at noon.

Watch for the link to our auction platform on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Christikon or our website www.Christikon.org

Like our page and share it with your friends! Watch for sneak peeks! Online auction ends on Sunday the 21st – be present and you can pick up your items at the Depot.

Campers: Don't forget to register for one of our many sessions available this summer!

How about Work Weekend? Bring your family and enjoy camp/fellowship and more while helping to prepare camp for the season! We look forward to welcoming you to camp! Go to www.christikon.org and register!

It is the mission of Christikon to awaken and nurture faith in Christ - exploring God's creation and the adventure of life together.

CHRISTIKON

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- www.christikon.org



LCM Campus Ministry

www.lcmbobcats.org

Wilderness University

During a recent student leadership meeting one of our students requested a

lesson on the wilderness. As he explained his request it was clear that he wanted more than a mere study of Jesus 40 days or Israels 40 years in the wilderness. He wanted to take a closer look at the metaphorical wilderness periods people experience today, likening the college years to a stint in the wilderness, a time in life marked by more wondering and wandering than usual.

Lent kicks off every year with the story of Jesus in the wilderness as told by either Mark, Matthew or Luke. During my study of Marks account a few weeks ago I came across a commentator observing that biblical wilderness experiences generally include times of testing and provision. College is most certainly a time of testing: tests in the classroom, testing the limits of newfound freedom, testy roommates, and a variety of other life tests during the turbulent transition from youth to young adulthood.

Testing is an unavoidable part of life, whether in college or not. Israels faith is tested in the wilderness as they ache for food and pant for water, all the while wondering what Moses and God are up to. Jesus is tested in the barren land, dared by the devil to perform cheap miracles in place of trusting Gods provision. The college students I am privileged to know and accompany on this stage of their journey are tested by new ideas and experiences that prompt them to reexamine their beliefs about God and self.

Yet in the midst of all this testing there is manna. There are attending angels. There is a divine provision. I get a front row seat to Gods masterful work at MSU, hearing international students talk about Gods hand in getting them to the states, witnessing seniors share their excitement when getting a job, they did not think would pan out, and watching freshmen find a loving community

after a lonely first semester. Testing, yes, but provision too.

Any kind of wilderness experience, literal or metaphorical, is disorienting, but through God’s grace these periods often lead to a reorientation of oneself toward God and the world. When it comes down to it, that’s why LCM is here. We are a community of faith committed to walking with students through whatever test this time of life throws at them while bearing witness to Gods transformative work through it all.

Thanks for joining us on this leg of the journey. Thank you for being a part of Gods provision in this time and place.

Grace & Peace,

JP Carlson, Campus Pastor



Join us serving Meals on Wheels. We’re looking for an extra driver or two. Dale Guidi will guide you through everything you need to do. This month we will be delivering meals April 8, 10, and 12. Thank you to all who help with this ministry.

Newsletters

If you know of like a hardcopy please let the



and Bulletins

anyone who would of the newsletter, office know at 406-

222-0512 or alclivingston@gmail.com.

Bulletins are now available online! Weekly Announcements, weekly bulletin, monthly calendar, and current newsletter are available online at <https://www.alclivingston.org/copy-of-calendar>

Montana Synod Assembly

We are looking for two people from the congregation to join Pastor Melissa in attending the Montana Synod Assembly. The assembly will gather people from across the synod in Billings on Friday, May 31st and Saturday, June 1. If you are interested and available to attend the Synod Assembly, please let Pastor Melissa know.



ALL ABOUT FOOD DRIVES AT THE



LIVINGSTON FOOD RESOURCE CENTER

FOOD PANTRY • COMMUNITY KITCHEN



Thank you for being interested in facilitating or participating in a food drive for the Livingston Food Resource Center.

One of the things that sets us apart from a traditional food pantry is our adherence to our nutrition policy. It ensures that we are providing the most nutritious food we can to our clients.

Please read some of our guidelines below to understand what we are looking for so you can best help us help our clients.



PANTRY STAPLES

- OILS (olive, canola, etc..)
- Honey
- Spices
- Vinegar
- Baking powder / baking soda
- Sugar
- Salt

CANNED FRUITS AND CANNED VEGETABLES

What we need the most is canned fruit packed in juice or light syrup, and canned vegetables with no added salt (less than 140mg).



OTHER

- Whole wheat pasta
- Cereal, low or free of added sugars
- Pasta sauces without high fructose corn syrup
- Beans, no to low sodium
- Nuts, no sodium



We can not accept food that is out of date or cans that are unlabeled or damaged.

If you have any questions please contact the Inventory and Procurement Manager at Katie@livingstonfrc.org
202 S 2nd St. Livingston, MT 59715 | 406-222-5335

