



SAVE THE DATE
 SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
 POTLUCK AND MINISTRY FAIR
 12:00 Noon

Sunday School begins, as well!!



OUR REDEEMER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH THE VOICE

August 2023



Last month I wrote about how lovely it is to have conversations with some of you as you ponder what to do with a recent windfall and think about how to bless your faith community with the blessing you've received.

*Pastor, we sold some property at a great profit
 and would like to give a portion to Our Redeemer's.
 How can it be used?*

*Pastor, we were blessed with extra income this year.
 Please use this for ministry.*

*Pastor, we got an inheritance from a beloved aunt
 and would like to tithe on it.
 We hope it will bless Our Redeemer's like she blessed us.*

Little did I know **we were all about to receive an unanticipated windfall!** No matter your politics, most of us have already gotten or are about to get an income tax rebate of up to \$2400 a household. And if you are fortunate enough to be a homeowner, another \$500 to boot.

The Stewardship Committee is challenging us all to give a portion of this windfall to the ministry of Our Redeemer's. Just in the next couple of months alone, it would go to support the upcoming confirmation retreat, a family movie night (have you seen *Ratatouille* ... it's hilarious), buying new Bibles for our middle schoolers (I am a fan of the Good News version ... easy to read and to the point), replacing one of our cameras to improve our online worship, and so much more.

At the most recent Stewardship Committee Meeting, one of the members commented that the most important thing we needed to do this fall was to "get everyone in the pool." Thankfully, this does not involve a new swimming suit. But it does involve all of us working toward common goals. Want to see the mortgage go down a bit? Give a little extra to that ministry. Want to help prepare the way for our new associate pastor? Step out in faith and support that. Have a heart for feeding our neighbors? There's milk to buy and veggies to harvest. Love the kids in our congregation (and who doesn't!)? Consider supporting our children's ministry, or confirmation programming, or youth group.

Many of us have been given an extra financial blessing this summer. As we enjoy these last few weeks of summer recreation, please consider how that blessing can spread beyond you and bless others.

Pastor Trina

Pastor Trina will be at Christikon for continuing education from July 31-August 6 and taking a few days off from August 7-10. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, call the office, and Lori will contact one of the LPAs.

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OUR REDEEMER'S
 LUTHERAN CHURCH
 3580 North Benton
 Helena, MT 59602
 406-442-7842

EMBRACED BY GOD'S LOVE WE REACH OUT TO SERVE BECAUSE OUR REDEEMER LIVES



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

The grief group will meet on Sunday, August 6, following Sunday worship. Grief is a journey where our supporters walk beside us as we find our own path. It is confusing, frustrating, and an unwanted time of life. Our group provides a safe place to share emotions and know there are people who understand the unpredictable path we walk. All who have suffered loss are welcome.



For information, call Jane Peachey 234-567-1461 or Lori Bigwood-Pecarina 406-672-2470.

CAREGIVER'S SUPPORT GROUP

"I am not a caregiver. My husband can dress and feed himself and even cooks an occasional meal," she said.



But that may not be true. Perhaps your loved one needs assistance with mobility, memory, medical appointments, or running errands. When health changes, one can unexpectedly become a caregiver. Join us to share the joys, tears, laughter, and challenges this role brings.

We will meet following the Sunday worship service on August 27. We begin around 10:40am in the Conference Room. If you wish to speak to one of the leaders during the week, please contact us at the following numbers.

Lori Bigwood-Pecarina 406-672-2470
Jane Peachey 234-567-1461

I cannot express my overwhelming gratitude for the wonderful people of Our Redeemer's over the years. So many of you have touched my heart with your welcoming presence, your willingness to help with whatever needs to be done, and the many ways you support and encourage the youth of this congregation and community.



While I did not anticipate leaving my role as Director of Youth and Family Ministry so soon, I am ever amazed at the ways that God works for the good and cares for God's own. I know this congregation will continue to be God's hands and feet in this community and world. (I look forward to seeing your smiles at Helena Food Share!)

I am grateful to witness and accompany you all in the wonderful ministries of Our Redeemer's. Thank you for sharing your youth with me; they have truly been a blessing in my life.

May God continue to guide and bless you.

In Christian Love,

Jackie Bartz

The Voice is published monthly as an update on the ministry and mission of

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church

3580 N Benton Ave
Helena, MT 59602
406.442.7842
www.ourredeemerlives.org

Ministry Team

Ministers: **All the People of God**

Pastor Trina Johnsten, Lead Pastor

Trina@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Lori Walter, Administrative Assistant

LoriW@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Sarah Magee, Director of Finance

Sarah@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Jason Callon, Director of Worship and Arts

Jason@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Steph Richardson, Interim Director of Youth Ministry

Steph@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Liz Swenson, Director of Children and Family Ministry

Liz@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Linda Keim, Organist

David McHaley, Custodian

Carol Will, Deacon

Lori Bigwood-Pecarina, Lay Pastoral Associate

Jan Martin, Lay Pastoral Associate

Jeff Martin, Lay Pastoral Associate

Kevin Mathews, Lay Pastoral Associate

Lisa Williams-Mathews, Lay Pastoral Associate

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Alenna Maw, Preschool Teacher

Alenna@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Marie Grissom, Preschool Teacher

Marie@OurRedeemerLives.Org

A congregation of the
Montana Synod of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America

Our Redeemer's Church Council

If you have questions or concerns and would like to visit with a council member, please feel free to contact any of us at the following email or phone:

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406-460-0133

Voice articles due on the 15th of each month

Tuesday, August 15 at 5:00pm

LoriW@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Long Term Prayer Concerns

Help us update our Long Term Prayer Concerns list by calling the church office.

Our Members

Phyllis Bauer	Linda Huso	Nikki MacMillan	Vicki Poore	Tim Williamson
Richard Carey	Pr. Trina Johnsten	Lorna Meyer	Laurie Simms	
Roberta Carey	Carol Kimble	Ron Paulson	Ruth Straley	
Jim Haubein	Dale Mickus	Jim Poore	Thea Swenson	

Our Family and Friends

Zachary Ark	Janessa and Maryssa Martin and Cheyene Bade (Roberta Carey's great nieces)
Victor Bachmier	Ricki McDanold (Denise Richards)
Lisa Bell (Lynnette Avery's niece)	Sharon McLane Ryan & Abigail McLane)
Julie Bliss (Nadine Sim)	Julie Mehl (daughter of Dave Mehl)
Steve Boyter	Chris O'Connor (Cheri Goosen's cousin)
Cody Carey (Richard & Roberta's great grandson)	Laura Oleson (Debbie Hurni's sister-in-law)
Tom Carter	Evelyn Sabo (Janet Erickson's mother)
JLD (Gary and Joy Novota)	Dorothy Tangen (Craig Erickson's aunt)
Karen Elliot (Chas Elliot's mom)	Doug Williams (Leona Williams' son)
Stormy Flinders	Families of suicide victims
The Fox Family (Brooke Sampson)	
Tom Hammond (Sue Hill's dad)	
Carter Hasselbach (Friend of the Preschool)	
Donna Hurni (Neal Hurni)	
Larry Kuntz (Dave & Lori Swenson)	
Jared Larsen (Ruth Reed's grandson)	

Our Family and Friends Serving in the Military

Brandon Bach	Grant Gagnon	Cody Johnson	Chris Oelkers
Kyle Begger	Adam Guay	Colton Johnson	Scott Pocha
Lonnie Cook	Ryan Girard	Corey Longbottom	Courtney Rath
Erin DenHerder	Austin Grieve	Chance McDowell	Tanner Reddig
Kellan Elder	Travis Gronley	Kent McGowan	Cody Stipcich
Travis Elder	Charlie Heidbreder	Dean McLain	Darrell Stipcich
Sage Ellis	Roger Henschel	Sawyer Linke	Victoria Stipcich
Micah Emmons	Paul Horst	Erin Mills	Tait Strom
Jessilyn Emmons	Anela Hemry	Brian Neal	Andrew Zimmer
Joe Fischer	Wade Hemry	Keith Nordquist	

Our Seminararians

Baird Linke
Shawn, Sara, Addie & Kaden Juers



August Bible Study

This month we conclude our summer study "Salvation Now."

We will again meet as a combined group on Wednesday, August 16, at 12:00pm at the Overland Express for lunch, followed by the Bible study.

We welcome new members and visitors to join us.

The WELCA Board: Tuesday, August 8 at 10:30am

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief: Tuesdays at 9:00am

Sew in Love Service Group: Thursdays at 9:00am School Kits for Lutheran World Relief
I know, it seems like we just finished shipping all our kits to Lutheran World Relief, and we did. Even though we won't send out School Kits until next May, it's time to buy the school supplies now **because they are on sale!** There is a tub in the narthex for your donations, along with a list of needed items. We'll continue collecting until the sales end.

Touchmark Worship Service

Our Redeemer's members provide a monthly worship and communion service at Touchmark on the third Tuesday of each month. On August 15, LPAs Jeff and Jan Martin will lead the gathering in word and sacrament. If you want to worship with some of our member residents, please join us in the second-floor forum at 10:00am on August 15.

ALTAR GUILD SUMMER SCHEDULE

DATE	CLEAN/PREP Before Sunday	SET UP FOR 9:30 service	CLEAN UP AFTER 9:30 Service	OTHER INFO
8-6	Kathy	Kristi		Green Paraments
8-13	Lori W Communion kits	Lori W	Lori C	Green Paraments
8-20	Lisa	Lisa	Lisa	Green Paraments
8-27	Kathy	Charlene	Shannon	Green Paraments

Interested in joining this ministry? Contact Lisa Williams-Mathews,
lew03@gmail.com or 406-465-5580.

Call Committee

As you may have read in the July VOICE in Kevin Mathews' article about the Annual Assembly for the ELCA Montana Synod -- finding pastors to fulfill the needs of churches in our synod is difficult. "In her report, Bishop Jungling talked about how the synod's statements of vision, calling, and values have always been appropriate. However, it is becoming increasingly imperative as the church struggles to provide pastors when and where needed. She reported that ... over 50% of our congregations are without pastors right now." We find ourselves in this position here at ORLC; we are in a waiting place, praying and having faith that the Spirit will move the right candidate to come our way. We have faith and confidence that the synod will find a candidate(s) that meets our needs and matches our focus. Your Call Committee remains eager to do the rest of its job in finding the right someone to bring in as the Associate Pastor of choice. Please keep potential candidates and the Call Committee members in your prayers as we await the next steps patiently.

In June the Perpetual Fund Committee Trustees approved the following:

SEMINARY SCHOLARSHIPS:

Shawn Juers, Wartburg Seminary
Baird Linke, Wartburg Seminary

GENERAL FUNDS:

Pastor Trina, Postcard Mailing Campaign 2023
Hunger Team, One-time matching funds for Summer Milk Campaign

Thank you!
Lori Chase, Secretary

Enhancing Worship with Art: Music, Design, Visual Elements and Themes. Led by Pr. Julie Long

-September 9, 10:00am to 3:30pm at New Hope Lutheran in Great Falls

-September 23, 10:00am to 3:30pm at Zion Lutheran in Glendive

-October 7, 10:00am to 3:30pm at Northridge Lutheran in Kalispell

\$25

All are welcome to come, learn and share ideas for music, liturgy and enhancing church spaces to emphasize worship and sermon themes. This workshop will involve singing a variety of songs and liturgies from "Evangelical Lutheran Worship", "All Creation Sings" as well as from other resources and composers. In addition to music, ideas will be presented using our senses to enhance worship spaces to highlight seasonal and sermon themes included in the Revised Common Lectionary and Narrative Lectionary. Led by retired pastor Julie Long.



From the Council President

I was fortunate to share a table with Rob Stuberger at the Annual Synod Assembly last June. (In case you're new to Our Redeemer's, Rob was the Worship and Arts Director just before Jason.) During a table discussion, Rob shared a response he had once heard to the question, "How much should I give to the work of the church?" The response: *Give until it changes your life.*

I thought that was profound—frightening, but profound. It makes sense: God is in the transforming business. In our baptisms, we each die to ourselves and rise into new life in Christ (see John 12:24-26 and Romans 6:4). Jesus didn't come to leave us as we are. He came "that they may have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10:10)

That means transforming us into the likeness of Christ, restoring us to the image of God—the image in which God originally made us but which image was marred by sin. And we know that God is love: generous, abundant, life-giving, life-transforming love. So, day by day, God's Spirit is working to change our lives, to make us more life-and-love-filled. Each day we die to sin and rise to new life as God's beloved children, a bit closer to the image of our creator and savior.

We can lean into this transformational change, or we can resist it. God will continue to love and accept us either way, but we'll never know what we missed if we don't open to the work of the Spirit. There are probably many ways to do that, but here are two: 1) practice spiritual disciplines and 2) practice "yes" living. Spiritual disciplines are Christian calisthenics; they build our spiritual muscles so we can live healthy, strong, straight, and prepared to handle life's stresses and strains. Standard spiritual disciplines include prayer, bible study, giving, and fasting of various varieties. But these exercises can include any intentional practice we do for the express purpose of drawing nearer to God—or allowing God to draw nearer to us.

To practice "yes" living is to nurture an expectant attitude of possibility, constantly looking for signs of God's presence and movement in our circumstances. It means intentionally putting ourselves in circumstances and environments in which God might use us; watching and waiting for God; preparing and responding when we sense God's call; trusting that God is active in our lives, healing and sustaining us and using us to heal and sustain a broken world. "Yes" living means responding to God's invitation to leave the perceived safety of the riverbank and to immerse ourselves in the powerful flow of the Spirit's cleansing, creative work in the world. It means giving of ourselves until our lives are changed.

Mind you; I'm much better at thinking about these things than actually doing them. For me, unfortunately, they are more theoretical aspirations than lived experience; much easier said than done. Fortunately, though, God gives us the Church to help us. God has called each of us to Our Redeemer's to help one another learn and grow through practice. It is a place where the current of God's love is strong and inviting. I am more than thankful for all of you who have stepped into the river, who have given of yourselves, allowed yourselves to be changed, and who have inspired and supported me to do the same.

Kevin Mathews
Council President

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

July 16-21, 2023



Our Redeemer's had 20+ youth spend a week at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp this summer. Although many youth attended a week at camp at different times throughout the summer, it was an honor to spend week five of the summer with this small crew from Our Redeemer's! It may have been hot, but we all had a blast learning and growing in Holy Trinity, Wholly Love! These youth simply jumped into all that camp had to offer including assisting in leading worship, songs and skits, making friendship bracelets and other crafts, conquering low ropes courses, polar plunging, mastering the Peace Canoe, learning and growing in bible studies, starlight cocoa parties, eating lots of ice cream, and so much more! So grateful for all the joy, giggles, van karaoke, and conversations with these wonderful youth!



Prayer Vigil for Creation Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church September 1, 2023

Our Redeemer's will observe the Global Day of Prayer for Creation on September 1 by holding a 12-hour community prayer vigil. The vigil is sponsored and organized by the congregation's Green Team, which grew from the Lenten Eco-theology study group.

The Global Day of Prayer for Creation was established by Pope Francis in 2015, in conjunction with the publication of his Papal Encyclical (letter) "Laudate Si" that same year. Laudate Si is a message to the church and the world about the urgency of reclaiming and fulfilling our vocation as stewards of the Earth. The title, meaning "Praise to You," comes from the first two words in Latin of St. Francis's Canticle of the Sun, which is a song of praise to Creation and its Creator. Our community prayer vigil will take place between 7:00am and 7:00pm on Friday, September 1.



The centerpiece of our vigil will take place at church in the Community Room, where a temporary chapel will be set up for the occasion.

Community Room, where a

We are asking individual members of Our Redeemer's to commit to keeping vigil at the church in 30-minute segments throughout the day and to spend that time in meditation and prayer for the gift of Creation and for the grace, strength, wisdom, and courage we need to respond faithfully to the challenges set before us. Resources will be provided to assist in focusing and guiding those keeping vigil. **Please give serious consideration to participating in this way. There will be a sign-up for individuals to commit to a time slot on the church's website.**

There will also be a time for **corporate participation in this day of prayer from Noon - 1:00pm, with a liturgy between 12:15 and 12:45.** All are welcome to join together for this time of prayer.

Finally, we encourage those out of town or otherwise unable to participate at the church in person to **set aside half an hour during the day on September 1** to participate wherever you happen to be, whether at work, home, or traveling. Resources will also be provided to assist in your prayer and meditation.

Let us join with sisters and brothers around the globe in embracing this opportunity to pray for the Earth and all its creatures.

Greetings From Preschool!

Hope you have been enjoying the summer; it is going by quickly! Gearing up for fall, we have just a few openings left in each of our 3-year-old, 4-year-old and Prekindergarten classes. If you know anyone who is looking for a great program, please send them our way! Details are on our preschool webpage, or they may contact Kris Thatcher at 406-442-7842, ext. 20. Thank you!



HUNGER TEAM NEWS

GOD'S LOVE

The shelter can definitely use a variety of canned vegetables. They have plenty of canned corn, which was the only vegetable they received with their quarterly commodities. They could use peas, beans, mixed vegetables, etc.

Of course, cleaning products, but they stressed BLEACH! It can be used in a shelter setting in so many ways, and they are in short supply. Basic hygiene products are always needed, especially now during these hot summer days. Men's razors have seen a recent shortage, along with deodorant. Any donation is welcomed and a blessing. Thank you!

We've just doubled your dollars!!!!

We're "udderly" making a difference. The Hunger Team has been awarded \$10,000 in matching funds for the summer milk campaign. The first \$10,000 will be matched dollar for dollar. That will bring us much closer to our goal of \$21,000 to provide milk for all recipients of the kid packs program for the upcoming school year.

As of mid-July, you have donated \$3350. The first \$3000 was matched by a grant from the Perpetual Funds committee, bringing our total to \$6350. We have also been awarded a \$7000 grant from the Town Pump Foundation. So the next \$7000 will be doubled, as well. You are "udderly" wonderful. Let's do it!!! **The deadline is August 31.**

Cash donations may be left in milk bottles at the Food Share display in the hallway. Checks should be made out to Our Redeemer's with "Milk Money" on the memo line. Online donations may be made at www.ourredeemerlives.org. You may give directly to "Milk Money" at that site.

SAVE THIS DATE: AUGUST 20-27

Yes, we are hosting Family Promise again towards the end of August. We shall once again need folks to set up the rooms for each family on Sunday, August 20, and then disassemble the rooms the following Sunday, August 27. We also need two overnight hosts for each evening and meals for Sunday-Thursday. All meals need to be delivered to the Day Center in the middle of the day. If you can help with any of these chores, please contact Kathy Olson, our Family Promise volunteer coordinator, at (406) 431-8686 or kathyolson8686@gmail.com. It truly takes an entire congregation to provide for and pray for our families during this time.



ISN'T THIS GARDEN BEAUTIFUL?

Stop by to enjoy the church's Community Garden the next time you are in the neighborhood. The flowers are beautiful and fragrant. The hens are happy. The plants placed by VBS children, Hunger Team, and the Boy Scouts are productive.

We've already donated lots of produce to Helena Food Share: rhubarb, radishes, spinach, beets, and more.

Monday evenings at 6:30pm, we continue to weed and harvest. All are welcome.



"It really opened my eyes to all the after-effects of hurricanes and how relief efforts are ongoing." ~Katie



"Crazy fun with new friends! Also, a big learning experience and knowing that our tiny jobs have a big impact on individual lives." ~Josh



"My favorite experience was when we got into a circle during worship to sing and pray. It was so touching to feel God's presence." ~Kennedy

"The trip to Florida was so fun and worth going. I loved to help out and meet new people." ~Laila





2023 SOUTHWEST DISASTER RESPONSE YOUTH SERVANT TRIP



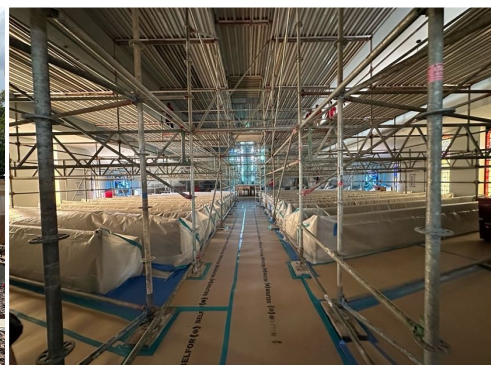
Our youth partnered with Hope Lutheran Church youth from Bozeman, MT, a group from Pennsylvania and Luther Springs Bible Camp Staff to serve in Sarasota, FL and assist in hurricane relief efforts.

They worked to assist local churches with their clean-up efforts, painting and cleaning up a memorial garden, as well as assisting three different food banks sorting food and clothing, assembling backpack meals, and assisting community members to receive their weekly food distribution. They also did a beach cleanup after the 4th of July. The weather was hot, but these amazing youth remained so positive and were eager to accompany the community in their recovery efforts!



Each place we served and visited left us with impactful stories of trauma and survival, but all reflected on the power of community. From worshipping in parking lots only a week after the hurricane to cooking meals for all over a fire in a shopping cart, the resilience and accompaniment of God's faithful community is unmatched! What a blessing to witness and be able to accompany others in their journeys to recovery.

Thank you to the wonderful congregation of ORLC and all of your support and prayers for our youth! This was truly a life-changing experience for them as they continue to grow in faith and serve their brothers and sisters in Christ.



Did You Know?

I was honored to spend some time with Gary and Dee Dee Fischer recently and enjoyed learning many new things about them!

Gary and Dee Dee moved to Helena in 1989 with their young son Joe – whose siblings, Pat and Sam, came along a little later. Both parents are engineers and came to Helena, where Gary worked for L.C. Hanson and Company (engineering consultant) and Dee Dee worked part-time for CH2M Hill. Gary changed employers a couple of times until he became an associate professor in civil engineering at Carroll College. Dee Dee also worked other jobs until she settled in at the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), reviewing subdivision applications.



The parents became involved in the boys' church activities when Dee Dee began teaching Sunday School when Joe was three. They continued as youth mentors and leaders in Sunday School, Confirmation, Youth Group, Vacation Bible School, and other youth activities, including Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp.

Dee Dee enjoyed (and still loves) opportunities to do dramas associated with Sunday School, worship services, or any other occasion! She chaired the Call Committee that led to the Call for Pastor Travis Norton and is currently serving on the Call Committee for an Associate Pastor at Our Redeemer's. She also enjoyed working on our capital campaign kickoff during the difficult years surrounding Y2K and 9/11: tough times to be fundraising! She also aided with WELCA bazaars and anything else Verna Strand asked her to do.

Gary served on the Fellowship Committee and was a Church Council member, teaching Sunday School, Confirmation, Youth Group, and leading various other busy youth ministries. He provided expertise in multiple areas of the building of the new church, including water rights research, contract specifications, and hands-on construction work.

Together, they were leaders of small groups and adult studies. They had been involved in Engagement Encounter and later Marriage Encounter before moving here and continued involvement for several years afterward. They developed a 6-week format used for pre-marital counseling. Gary used the program as preparation when he was invited to officiate at wedding ceremonies for family members and former students.

When asked what has kept them at Our Redeemer's, they agreed that the church family is growing in faith together and that through our ups and downs, leadership changes, etc., they and the congregation have been strengthened in that faith.

Gary retired from teaching at Carroll College at the end of the 2023 spring term, and Dee Dee will retire from DEQ in August. They look forward to traveling and starting a new chapter in their lives, which includes much time with grandkids!

In the meantime, you can find them operating the computer in the back corner during worship services, serving coffee before services, serving communion, mowing lawns, and generally helping with anything they're asked to do.

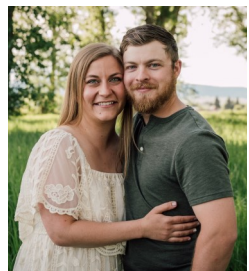


Laura and Charlie Gorman moved from Washington in 2021 with two horses, two dogs, and a cat after long careers in law enforcement (Charlie) and as a preschool teacher (Laura). Laura is already on the sub list for the Our Redeemer's preschool. Interesting small world: our own Jason Callon went to the same church as the Gormans when he was a kid!



Carol and Brian Landsverk have been attending for a couple of years, driving in from the Winston area. Carol is in education, and Brian is a gastroenterologist at the VA. They have two children. Interesting small world: Brian was the paperboy in Pastor Trina's neighborhood as a kid!

Brenda Olson is a familiar face to many, as she's been a member in the past and has recently returned to Helena. She has worked for the Student Assistance Fund for 20 years and is the Controller. Brenda is the daughter of members Sharlene and Ken Kolb.



Claire and Jack Palmer are newly married and live in the neighborhood. Jack installs HVAC systems, and Claire is public policy manager for the Alzheimer's Association of MT. They have already signed up to serve coffee before worship in August, so they will be easy to spot.

Melvin Schenck is one of our most faithful online worshippers. He lives in Vietnam with his wife Nguyen Thi Oanh, whom many of us met last summer when they were in Helena for several weeks. Mel first visited Vietnam as a navy officer and later returned to share his skills as an architect. He is the brother of member Clayton Schenck.



*Keeping our promise,
we teach children to: love God,
love and serve each other,
learn and share God's story.*

Blessing of the Backpacks

Another fall is approaching and it is a time for students to return to school and fall schedules to resume.



Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church will have a Blessing of the Backpacks Milestone Celebration on **Sunday, August 27** at the **9:30am** summer service.

We are inviting **ALL** students (preschool through college) to come with their backpack or school bag. The students will be invited to bring their backpacks forward during worship to have them blessed and will receive a small token to remember that God is always with you!

Please contact Liz at liz@ourredeemerlives.org with questions.

LAST Movie Matinee of the Summer!

Join us on August 17 at 5:00pm to watch *Ratatouille*!



We will have dinner and movie refreshments. Please bring a side to share. We hope to see you there.

Contact Liz, liz@ourredeemerlives.org with questions.



KidTime, for children age 3 and up, will continue through the summer at the 9:30am service. Hope to see you there!

Youth Christian Education Registration

Children's Ministry Registration

Please follow the link to register for the 2023-2024 Children's Ministry Christian educational opportunities OR use the following QR code.

<https://forms.gle/yK1e1bBBCjapQU1TA>



Middle School Ministry Registration

Please follow the link to register for the 2023-2024 Middle School Ministry Christian educational opportunities OR use the following QR code.

<https://forms.gle/VFg5FJUcqcUqMzh9>



High School Ministry Registration

Please follow the link to register for the 2023-2024 High School Ministry Christian educational opportunities OR use the following QR code.

<https://forms.gle/9cfgGyCyiXN7RZAG9>



*All classes begin the week of **September 17**. A letter with more detailed information will be sent home soon.*

Please contact Liz, liz@ourredeemerlives.org or Steph, steph@ourredeemerlives.org with questions.



From left to right: Cody (Quarter horse), Dan, Fernie (Labrador), Letty, Signe, Steph and Ernie (Hanovarian)

I wanted to begin introducing myself with a great thanks of gratitude to the congregation for welcoming me to fill some really big shoes as the Interim Director of Youth Ministry. I am full of joy and excitement to start. I am looking forward to the journey with each and everyone of you through this interim period!

My journey to this position started back in College. I am a 2004 graduate of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. I double majored in Communication and Religion. During the summers of my college years, I spent my time at Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp in Colorado and Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp in Montana. These years were the best! I was surrounded by amazing people and

God's beautiful creation. My soul needs wild places! I even met my husband while working at FLBC. Dan and I were both counselors at the same time. What a great place to meet your future spouse! Dan and I have been married for 18 years with two amazing girls! Letty will be an 8th grader at HMS, and Signe will be a 4th grader at Warren Elem. Dan works for KLJ Engineering and is currently on the Board of Directors for FLBC. Needless to say, our family LOVES camp!

My professional life has been in youth ministry and adaptive outdoor recreation for individuals with disabilities. I worked for Christ the King Lutheran Church in Bozeman as their Family and Youth Director for four years before moving to Great Falls. While at Christ the King, I was sent to Wartburg Seminary to earn a certification in Youth Ministry. At Christ the King Lutheran Church, we had weekly events, adventure outings, service projects, retreats, intergenerational activities, and so much more! My favorite part was developing relationships with the families of the congregation.

While living in Great Falls, Dan and I were heavily involved in the youth programming on Wednesday nights at our church, Bethel Lutheran Church. We were in charge of the 5th graders on Wednesday nights, and then that led to leading the High School class on Wednesday nights. My day job was with Eagle Mount for 11 years. While at Eagle Mount, I ran the adaptive ski/snowboard program, rock climbing program, and rafting program. I was also an instructor in the equine program for mental, physical, and cognitive disabilities. My favorite part of this job was working as the equine professional with the mental health professional. The horse is an amazing animal that brings to light what is going on inside the individual.

Since moving to Helena 3 years ago, I have focused on my kids through the covid years. I also found an old passion of mine in making pottery. I have been making pottery and selling it on the side. Recently I was asked to serve on the Board of Directors of the Helena Clay Arts Guild, where I hold a studio space. You can also find me playing with my family in the mountains and my horses in the backyard. I have been blessed with an amazing life!

My thoughts behind youth ministry is that it is a ministry of the whole church body. The most important aspect of this and any ministry is in relationships. I believe that relationships, communication, and respect are the hub of everything. When people begin to feel safe and loved through relationships, everything else falls into place through experiences, education, and so much more. Since youth ministry is bigger than one person, I will be looking for interested church members to start a youth ministry steering team. This group will steer the ministry. Not only will this help during the interim period, but it will also give continuity through this time of transition.

I am very excited to be working with the wonderful staff here at ORLC, the loving congregation, and especially the incredible youth and their families of our church and community!

God Bless!
Steph Richardson

Ad Hoc Financial Review Team

Jerry Hoover summarized the findings of this team, noting that our core ministries (worship, youth and children, caring, adult education, administration and organization, communication, and social connection, community and global outreach, and preschool education) are consistent with our staffing needs. Our Redeemer's has a strong balance sheet with substantial debt service reserves for mortgage payments and a strong cash position in other dedicated accounts.

The approved 2023 ministry spending plan represents the annual income and expense projections. The 2023 income projection implies that an increase in giving will ensure our current ministry goals are met. Average giving in the past three years has not fluctuated significantly and appears to have increased slightly. Increased attendance and membership in 2022 and 2023 are positive signs of growth.

Financial Review

The Council voted to hold building fund donations, designated fund donations, and benevolence for this month due to a short cash flow at the end of June. However, it was noted that giving in July has improved considerably.

Ministry Team and Committee Reports

- Stephanie Richardson is working with Liz Swenson on preliminary plans for youth activities in the fall.
- Property Development Committee reports that RMDC has an agreement in place with the city of Helena for the initial \$1.6M with few restrictions. RMDC is coordinating with the county for additional funding that may be available this fall. They are moving forward with planning, design, and subdivision issues. The Council approved the payment for appraisal, survey, and attorney's fees that would be needed in preparation for the buy/sell agreement.
- Hunger Team reported that Town Pump has awarded ORLC \$7000 in matching funds for the summer milk campaign. Along with the Perpetual Funds grant of \$3000, the team now challenges the congregation to match these \$10,000 grant awards. The goal for the summer remains at \$21,000.
- Call committee is waiting for applications for the position of associate pastor. Various media outlets have listed this position.
- Jackie's send-off celebration is scheduled for Sunday, July 30. A reception will be held in the Great Room following worship.
- A fall Ministry Fair and potluck are scheduled for Sunday, September 17, at 12:00pm. Sunday School also resumes on that date.
- Kevin Mathews has submitted a letter of commitment to Idaho Sustainability and Energy Coalition on behalf of ORLC. This organization is applying to be a regional manager of federal grant money under the Renewing America's Nonprofits program.
- Julie Penner reported that the church directory group is considering using an online directory company for our upcoming directory.
- While we are still struggling to get Council photos on the new bulletin board, the board has been a fine avenue for advertising other activities in the church.
- Note the new signage around the building. More signs will be added in the near future.

Labor Day Work Weekend
& Family Retreat



September 1 - 4, 2023 (Friday - Monday)
Cost: By donation, registration required ☺
Register by August 18th!

Join us this Labor Day weekend for one last summer celebration with your family! Enjoy all that FLBC has to offer during this great family retreat: swimming, stand up paddle boarding, crafts in the Art Barn, sailing, and much more! Come to help us with some work projects or join us for a weekend of relaxation, or both! Either way, there will be fun, worship, and more for all.

There will be Bible Study for adults, and camp staff will lead children and youth in classic camp activities such as Bible study, worship, games, hikes and more. All join together for worship, fellowship, and games!



Retreat begins with dinner at 6:15pm on Friday (check-in is from 5-6pm) and ends with lunch on Monday.

2023 REGISTRATION

Labor Day Weekend/ September 1-4, 2023

Name(s) & Age(s): _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone number (Cell or Home) _____ Email: _____
 Please list any dietary restrictions, severe allergies or housing needs: _____

I have skills in: _____ I'm willing to be a project Leader

I/We will be staying the following nights at camp: Friday Saturday Sunday

& will be eating these meals at camp: **Friday:** Dinner **Saturday:** Breakfast Lunch Dinner

Sunday: Brunch Dinner **Monday:** Breakfast Lunch

Registration due by August 19th, 2023.

Email office@flbc.net or mail to FLBC 603 S Main St., Kalispell, MT 59901
 A list of what to bring and a schedule will be sent to you prior to the retreat.



406.752.6602 • 603 South Main Street, Kalispell, MT 59901 • office@flbc.net • www.flbc.net



August Birthdays!

Remember our friends in Christ with a Birthday prayer!

1 John Erickssen Clay Perry Bill Schulz Lloyd Teigen	Daniel Hill Judy McMaster Rob Williams	Rose Oelkers Dan Wickens 16 Max Cover Pat Lynch	Bryce Sampson 21 Violet Lawton Joe Ruby	Autumn Keller 28 Jacob Buckley Justin DesRosier
2 Reese Wickens 4 Kari Brekke Carson DesRosier Carter Mummey Brady Swenson Cody Vukonich	8 Dodie Heffner John Steinhoff 9 Beth Barry 10 Caroline Burke Erik Goughnour Sue Hill Deena Verworn Eli Voss	17 Clint Mingay 18 Ray Brekke Carla Cronholm Mona Erb 19 Dorothy Cail JoJo Forseth Madilyn Lamping	22 Janay Buckley Kathy Gessaman Charlie Gorman Brady Martin Morgan May 23 Doug Ferris Pam Strand	Craig Linke Carl Nordberg Jon Tintinger 29 Connor Lamping Abbey Passage 30 Gretchen Krumm Adeline Mahlum Willa Sheard
5 Ellen Dodds Nora Richards 6 Ben Vukonich Kenzie White 7 April Gronley	11 Charlotte Neill Steve Wade 13 Kimber Michalson Dorothy Morrison 15 Alayna Boe	Alyssa Magee Amy Mingay 20 Monroe DeVerniero Hildegard Fohnagy Cort Jensen	24 Amanda Hill 25 Noah Henry 26 Byron Dike Izzy Linder Dane Quinn 27 Dan Dodds Stacy Grimmis	31 Jim Dole Ryan McLane Dick Oie Ruth Oie Victoria Stipcich

Unfinished Business

- Council is now soliciting names for the long-range planning committee. Please submit any suggested names to Kevin Mathews.

New Business

- Tracey Tintinger was appointed to the Stewardship Committee.
- Several building usage requests have come to the Council recently. The building usage guidelines give priority to congregational needs and secondarily to community partners and nonprofit and service groups in our community. Other requests may be denied, especially when we have inadequate staffing to provide for extra building usage.
- A worship director search team has been formed. Members are Autumn Keller, Lyanne Den Herder, Jim Penner, Lisa Williams-Mathews, and Pastor Trina Johnsten.

Linda Nelson
Secretary



Happy Anniversary

Celebrate with those married 40 years

Toni & Jerry Guay	8/8/1980	43 years
Glenn & Janet Erickson	8/9/1969	54 years
Terry & Linda Young	8/10/1968	55 years
Herb & Diana Kulow	8/20/1966	57 years
Pat & Linda Keim	8/30/1964	59 years
Scott & Nedra Brown	8/30/1963	60 years



Baptisms

7/5/2023

Elmer Lee Strong

Come to The Water

Baptism Class at Our Redeemer's



Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters!

Interested in baptism? Please let Pastor Trina know! We offer a one-hour session during which we discuss what Lutherans believe about baptism and go through what happens in the baptismal rite. These sessions are scheduled at a mutually agreeable time. Pastor Trina can be reached at trina@ourredeemerlives.org or 406-442-7842.

HOSPITALIZED? LET US KNOW...

We have a caring group of individuals who are happy to visit hospitalized members. The hospital staff is not currently asking religious preference or church membership on admission. Please notify the church office if you, your family, or friends are hospitalized. We want to be a part of your healing process.

2023 MONTANA TAX REBATES

The 2023 legislature passed two bills that provide tax rebates. House bill 192 provides an individual income tax rebate of up to \$1,250 per single and \$2,500 per joint return. The Department of Revenue has begun issuing the rebates in the order tax returns were received with all rebates to be issued by December 31, 2023. House bill 222 provides a property tax rebate of up to \$500 in 2023 and up to \$500 in 2024 for Montana residents at their primary residences. Montana homeowners may claim this year's rebate beginning August 15, 2023. **The claim must be filed by October 1, 2023. Visit "getmyrebate.mt.gov" for more information.** Both bills are rebates based on taxes previously paid during the Covid pandemic.

When you receive your rebates, please consider investing a portion into the work we do as a church family---the work of sharing with others in our community and across the globe the gospel message of God's love and grace.


Thank you from the Stewardship Committee.

August

2023

AD = Administrative Wing
 CR = Classrooms
 PS = Preschool
 HS Loft = High School Loft

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
		1 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 11:00am - Knitters for Peace
6 9:30am - Outdoor Summer Worship 10:40am - Grief Support Group - Conference Room	7	8 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 10:30pm - WELCA Board - AD1 11:00am - Knitters for Peace 6:30pm - Executive Committee meeting - Conference Rm
13 9:30am - Summer Worship + KidTime	14	15 Voice Articles Due 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 10:00am - Touchmark Worship and Communion 11:00am - Knitters for Peace 5:30pm - Council Meeting - Community Room
20 9:30am - Summer Worship + KidTime	21	22 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 11:00am - Knitters for Peace
***** August 20 - 27 - Our Redeemer's hosts Family Promise *****		
27 9:30am - Summer Worship + KidTime Blessing of the Backpacks 10:40am - Caregivers Support Group - Conference Room	28	29 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 11:00am - Knitters for Peace 6:30pm - Hunger Team - Conference Room

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5
9 9:00am - Men's Group - Conference Rm.	10 9:00am - Sew In Love - CR5-6	11	12
16 9:00am - Men's Group - Conference Rm. 12:00pm - WELCA Combined Bible Study - Overland Express	17 9:00am - Sew In Love - CR5-6 5:00pm - Movie Matinee - <i>Ratatouille</i> 	18	19
23 9:00am - Men's Group - Conference Rm.	24 9:00am - Sew In Love - CR5-6	25	26
***** August 20 - 27 - Our Redeemer's hosts Family Promise *****			
30 9:00am - Men's Group - Conference Rm.	31 9:00am - Sew In Love - CR5-6 Last day to turn in Milk Money		