

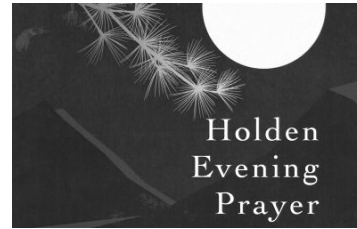
OUR REDEEMER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH THE VOICE

February 2023



Lent Is Around the Corner

Ash Wednesday is February 22nd and services are offered at Noon and 6:30pm. The season of Lent is a time to turn inward and reflect upon how Christ is working in our lives and how we can be closer to Christ, as Jesus journeys ever-closer to the cross. Holy Week begins April 2nd and Easter Sunday is April 9th. We look forward to worshipping with you during this important season!



Every Wednesday at 6:30pm During Lent

Join us for a time of centering prayer, song, and scripture. We will light candles and sing the beautiful Holden Evening Prayer as a church family every Wednesday in Lent!

From the Council

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church is your church... Well, that's not entirely accurate. More precisely, Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church is *God's church*, a part of God's universal church (aka, "the Body of Christ"). But God has entrusted Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church as a *gift* to you, to us. As recipients of this gift, we are each called to create and be part of a community that models God's kingdom for the world. We are invited to partner with each other and God's Spirit to do the work of God's kingdom, turning faith into loving action, learning and growing, and inviting others to experience the fullness of God's blessings.

When you read this, a new Congregation Council will have been elected or will be soon. The Council's job is to help create and administer a structure that allows each of our members to respond as fully as possible to the invitation described above. In other words, the Council is here to serve you so you and all church members can faithfully and effectively serve God. The Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church Constitution puts it this way:

The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation and, in particular, its worship life to the end, that everything is done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The duties of the Congregation Council shall include the following: [*here are a few of the listed duties*]

- To lead this congregation in stating its mission, doing long-range planning, setting goals and priorities, and evaluating its activities in light of its mission, goals, and budgetary needs.
- To seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support.
- To identify individuals to fill vacancies on all standing committees.
- To oversee and provide for the administration of this congregation to enable it to fulfill its functions and perform its mission.

The Council members consider it a privilege and a solemn responsibility to serve you this way, and we pledge to do our best. We also know our best will often fall short of *the* best that could be done. So we invite you to pray for us, to be involved as much as you can with the life of the church, to ask questions, and to hold us accountable.

God has blessed this community with a wealth of opportunities to serve and resources to meet those needs. Throughout the life of this church, we have witnessed countless examples of God's Spirit creating new life through us. We are excited to see how God will act through us this coming year, and we're grateful that you have allowed us to be an important part of our shared journey through 2023.

2023 Council Members

Cody Salo	salo3730@gmail.com	Linda Nelson	ralinelson@yahoo.com
Ed Johnson	edwardmartinjohnson62@gmail.com	Lynn Voss	lynn.voss@thrivent.com
Ingrid Childress	ichildress@bresnan.net	Sarah Sampson	sarahmarieirvin@hotmail.com
Jennifer Colegrove	colegrove@bresnan.net	Tracy Moseman	mtmoseman@hotmail.com
Julie Penner	julianne.penner@gmail.com	Tracey Tintinger	tvting@bresnan.net
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OUR REDEEMER'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Helena, MT 59602
406-442-7842

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

HUNGER TEAM NEWS

GOD'S LOVE

It's Our Chance to Make a Difference

Nelson Mandela once said: "We can change the world and make it a better place. It's in your hands to make a difference."

Homelessness is a global human tragedy. But if we work together, we can make the world a better place for everyone. No matter how small the effort is, it can make a difference. We can all help end homelessness in our own little ways.

Thank you for continuing to fill the God's Love hamper to overflowing. For February, God's Love could use:

cleaning supplies but especially bleach & floor cleaner
hygiene products - razors, shaving cream, small shampoo/conditioner,
soap, hairbrushes, nail clippers, toothbrush/paste, etc.

KID PACK DONATIONS

It's a Heart Healthy Choice

February is American Heart Month. This month we focus on the generosity of our hearts and the gifts of heart-healthy foods for the Kid Packs. In honor of both, we request donations of individual oatmeal packets for the children. Your generosity of heart helps the hearts of children throughout our community. As always, you may leave your donations in the Helena Food Share crates in the hallway outside the sanctuary, near the administration offices. You continue to bless our community in so many ways. A hearty "THANK YOU" for all you do to help the hungry.

KENDRA WILDE HUNGER ENDOWMENT FUND

The Hunger Endowment Fund generated \$295.68 during the last quarter of 2022. As of this writing, the Hunger Team has yet to decide upon the recipient of these funds. A decision will be made at their meeting in late January. During 2022 funds were disbursed to God's Love, Family Promise, and Lutheran World Relief (for Ukrainian relief). Donations are still accepted at the church. Be sure you designate the funds for the Kendra Wilde Hunger Endowment Fund.

FAMILY PROMISE

Host week:

February 5-11

Our Redeemer's will be hosting Family Promise guests shortly after you receive this newsletter. We shall most likely be hosting three families during that week. Four additional families are fed at the Day Center but are housed in local motels, using MERA (Montana Emergency Rental Assistance) funds. Our needs for the week include the following: Assistance with setting up and tearing down three rooms to be used by our guests (contact Judy McMaster, judy1950@bresnan.net, 406-465-7118), two overnight hosts each evening to stay at the church 7pm-7am with separate sleeping quarters (contact Linda Coty, cotyak@hotmail.com, 406-443-5857), and meals for all 7 families, to be delivered Sunday through Thursday to the Day Center midday for reheating later in the day (contact Linda Nelson, ralinelson@yahoo.com, 406-422-3751). If you are interested but unable to provide time or meals during the week, donations may be made to Family Promise either through checks to ORLC designated for Family Promise, or through the church's website (<https://www.ourredeemerlives.org>), following the prompts for donations. Each hosting week costs an additional \$200 or so to provide snacks and cleaning supplies for our families.

Serving homeless families in our community continues to be a challenge. Family Promise receives far more requests each month than they can honor. Only families who resolve to stay with the program and submit to rigorous drug and alcohol protocols while still caring for their children are accepted into the program. Your generosity of time and spirit make it possible for many of these families to become successful, productive members of our society once again. All parents are working (or looking-for-work) adults who struggle to keep a roof overhead and food on the table. Many more in our community are just one tragedy or unforeseen medical emergency away from homelessness. At this time, graduates of the program often remain in the program for an extended period of time simply because of the lack of affordable housing in our community. We ask for your prayers for each of these families.

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 and Facilities

Sarah@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Jason Callon, Director of Worship and Arts

Jason@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Jackie Bartz, Director of Youth and Family

Jackie@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Liz Swenson, Director of Children's Ministries

Liz@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Linda Keim, Organist

David McHaley, Custodian

Carol Will, Deacon

Lori Bigwood-Pecarina, Lay Pastoral Associate

Jan Martin, Lay Pastoral Associate

Kevin Mathews, Lay Pastoral Associate

Lisa Williams-Mathews, Lay Pastoral Associate

Kristine Thatcher, Interim Preschool Director

Kris@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Wendy Vukonich, Preschool Teacher

Wendy@OurRedeemerLives.Org

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:

Kevin Mathews, President

kllpmath@msn.com

406-465-1839

Cody Salo, First Vice President

Salo3730@gmail.com

406-465-4833

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Lynn Voss, Past President

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sarahmarieirvin@hotmail.com

406-460-0133

Tracey Tintinger

tvting@bresnan.net

406-459-8478

Voice articles due on the 15th of each month

Wednesday, February 15 @ 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	Dale Mickus	Ruth Straley
Richard Carey	Carol Kimble	Jim Poore	Thea Swenson
Roberta Carey	Dora Lindner	Vicki Poore	

Our Family and Friends

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

Our Family and Friends Serving in the Military

Kyle Begger	Grant Gagnon	Cody Johnson	Chris Oelkers
Chad Beley	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	
Joe Fischer	Wade Hemry	Keith Nordquist	

Our Seminarrians

Baird Linke
Shawn, Sara, Addie & Kaden Juers



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP



Grief is a journey of ups and downs, of times when you feel like no one gets your journey or they are tired of listening to you. Our grief support is offered the second Sunday of each month between services. The purpose is to have a safe place to share with others who understand. You aren't broken, not grieving too long but are simply traveling a road of unmarked territory where others can walk beside you but never show you the way. All are welcome to share space and support in a confidential setting. You may just show up or you can call Jane Peachey 234-567-1461 or Lori Bigwood-Pecarina 406-672-2470 for more information.

CAREGIVER'S SUPPORT GROUP



Caregivers share the gift of love on a daily basis. Our support group seeks to be a safe place to encourage and uplift those who provide for loved ones.

Please join us on Sunday, February 26th at 12:10pm in the conference room next to the church offices. Lori Bigwood-Pecarina 406-672-2470 and Jane Peachey 234-567-1461 lead the group. We welcome your questions and calls.



February Bible Study

Continuing with the study of the Ten Commandments, in Session Two we will focus on Commandments 3 and 4. "Rhythms and respect" is the title of the study.

Dorcas Bible study: Tuesday, Feb.21 at 10:00am

Rebecca Bible study: Wednesday, Feb. 15 at 1:00pm

Both groups meet in the Conference Room.

We welcome new members and visitors to join us.

The WELCA Board: Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 10:30am

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

Sew in Love Service Group: Thursdays at 9:00am

Bake Sale

The net proceeds from our Holiday Bake Sale were \$1,655. Thank you to all who helped make that event a success.

Scholarships to Flathead Bible Camp

WELCA is again offering a scholarship to any student in the congregation who needs financial assistance to attend Flathead Bible Camp this summer. Applications are available in the narthex and should be turned in to the church office. The deadline for receiving applications is **May 1**.

College Scholarships

WELCA has a \$1,000 scholarship available to any student in the congregation who will be attending a religiously affiliated college or university. Application forms may be obtained from Jackie Bartz and should be turned in to the church office by **May 1**.

Interested in exploring eco-theology?

Nelson Bock will lead a discussion of eco-theology during Lent.



Eco-theology is an approach to exploring and understanding our relationship to God through our relationship to Creation. Rather than beginning with concepts of sin and salvation, eco-theology begins with our experience of creation as "nature" and seeks to understand our relationship to creation as a reflection or manifestation of our relationship to God. From where do we get our understanding of and attitude toward creation; what is the place of humankind in the natural order; how do these inform and shape our understanding of and relationship to God; how do Jesus and the Holy Spirit figure into eco-theology; and how do the answers to these questions illuminate both the sources and possible solutions to the environmental challenges facing humankind?

Nelson is a graduate of the Greenfaith Fellowship Program, which prepares religious leaders for environmental leadership. His final thesis on eco-theology was published by *Crosscurrents* magazine in 2013 and will be used as a beginning point for our conversation.

This class will meet on Wednesday evening following Lenten worship, from 7:15 – 8:00pm, March 8, 15, 22, and 29.



The **Associate Pastor Call Committee** has begun their work on the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). As you may recall, this document is like a resume of our church which provides prospective associate pastors information about us to see if they feel there would be a match. The team focused on Part II: Our Vision for Mission. There are many subsections in this larger heading but the group is very engaged and hopes to have this section completed by the end of January. There are four other main sections in the MSP and we will keep you posted as to our progress. Dee Dee Fischer has agreed to do the data entry of the MSP into the synod database, which is one of the first steps to receiving any candidate names from the synod.

In February, we will be beginning our discussions as to what will be needed in an Associate Pastor and welcome any input from members of the congregation. We will be basing a lot of our discussion on the feedback collected from the cottage meetings and the Holy Cow survey that have already been completed. Thank you for your continued prayers and support as we pursue this important task.

Greetings From Preschool!

Our registration for the 2023-2024 school year begins Tuesday, February 7th for current students, alumni preschool families and church members. It will open on Tuesday, February 14th to the community.

Our Redeemer's Preschool offers classes for 3-, 4- and 5-year-old students (age as of September 10, 2023). We believe each child is unique and a precious child of God. Our classes are structured to provide age-appropriate learning opportunities for each child to experience success in a Christian setting. Our passion is to prepare children for life's adventures by letting them experience the joys of learning, friendships and God's love through both play-based and instructional methods.

Visit our web page at <https://ourredeemerlives.org/preschool/> to learn more information about our program and classes. Our brochure and registration form may be downloaded, or hard copies are available in the Preschool office and church information center.

Parent-Teacher Conferences are January 30th – February 1st. If you haven't signed up for your conference date yet, please do so on our preschool web page.

Tax receipts for tuition paid during 2022 have been printed and sent home with currently enrolled students. If you haven't received yours, please contact the preschool office.

If you would like to assist with Lunch Bunch any or all days, M-Th, 11:00-12:15, we love to have volunteers! This is a fun time for the children to interact and play with each other, eat their lunch (they bring their own), and then go to class or go home. It's a popular option and is often full. A staff member is always present, a volunteer is a great help.

Please watch for upcoming opportunities (A.K.A. fundraisers!) to treat yourself and or a friend while supporting our preschool. We could not thrive without your generosity; your help is so greatly appreciated. Thank you.

☎ 406-442-7842, ext. 20



Help Make Worship Happen!

Worship is an act of an entire congregation of people and we need your help! Sign up in the hallway now to usher, greet, serve as a lector, distribute communion, help with tech, and more. Please put your name down even if you're already helping, to reaffirm your commitment. Thank you from the Outreach & Welcome Team and Jason Callon, the Director of Worship and Arts.



Council meeting was held on January 17, 2023. Present: Lynn Voss, Kevin Mathews, Beth Johnson, Jan Martin, Tom Johnson, Julie Penner, Tracy Moseman, Sarah Magee, Ingrid Childress, and Jeff Martin. Pastor Trina Johnsten joined the meeting in progress via conference call. Jan Martin opened the meeting with a brief devotional based on Matthew 4:17.

Audit Committee Report

Jeff Martin, representing the Audit Committee, reported that the Annual Audit showed no material discrepancies, and the Council can be assured that the financial records are in order. The Committee does recommend updating the Money Counting Policy to reference the current revision of the documented procedure. They also recommended reviewing payroll benefits such as FICA, Worker's Compensation. He suggested the Audit Committee would be able to assist with the review. Jeff mentioned that the ELCA recommends that congregations with receipts over \$400,000 have a professional, outside audit every five years and ORLC has not followed that guidance. Based on his initial estimates, that would cost Our Redeemer's between \$5000 to \$8000. It was suggested that money from the eventual sale of church property could be used for a third-party audit.

Lynn expressed the Council's deep appreciation to Audit Committee members Jeff Martin, Shauna Helfert and Mike Burke for their excellent work.

Financial Review

Beth reported that receipts for the month of December were very good: Ministry Fund receipts totaled \$81,534 and Building Fund donations totaled \$16,259. Before transferring funds to benevolence, Council Funds, and the Building Fund accounts, we are at a positive cash flow of \$53,917.29.

Council decided to fully pay remaining 2022 Council Funds (\$3,971) and Building Funds (\$27,032) owed to Mission Investments. Our Redeemer's will also complete our target contribution to the Synod for the year (4 percent of mission offerings with \$9,736 remaining for 2022), and write-off the small, unpaid target benevolence to local partners and FLBC. This will result in approximately \$13,178 remaining in the checking account to begin 2023. Sarah pointed out that Property Tax will be due in May so the holdover will be helpful to cover that.

Ministry Team and Committee Reports

Members of the Ministry Team submitted very complete reports for the Annual Report.

- The City has issued their ARPA Proposal Request and our Property Development Team is assisting Rocky Mountain Development Council with our application. Seven applicants are expected to submit proposals.
- Preschool Board met and they are in the process of planning their Spring Basket Raffle Fundraiser.
- Welcome and Outreach Committee will be helping Jason recruit more volunteers to assist with Sunday services.
- Generosity Committee has been working on a new approach toward stewardship, involving tying financial giving to Ministry. Dennis Trotter has begun *Fed By Ravens* sessions, running three Sundays in January. His first class had 20 participants. Jim Penner will be offering two Financial Literacy classes in February covering Earnings, Spending, Borrowing and Saving.
- Hunger Team is organizing Our Redeemer's turn to host families for Family Promise during the first week in February.
- Call Committee is meeting every other week and is re-working the previous Ministry Site profile.

The Annual Meeting is set for Sunday, January 29, 2023, after the second service. We will hold a potluck. Votes will be taken for members of the Council, the Executive Committee, and any new members to other standing committees. Jason is working on establishing the technology necessary to allow for Zoom voting, due to the on-going Pandemic. Paper ballots will be used for those attending in person.

A Retreat will be held on Saturday, February 11, 2023, for the newly appointed Council members.

Ingrid Childress
Secretary



February BIRTHDAYS

2/1	Heidi Fohnagy Sawyer Johnson Brit Linder Adalynn Smith Cindy Steinmetz Wayne Weikart	2/7	Gerritt Merrill Haileigh Tompkins Bryce Beley Janine Robertson Eleanor Byrne Hunter Henschel	2/13	Jim Anderson Kathleen Ford	2/18	Sydney Barry Chad Richards Dan Rispens
2/2	Cayden Dorrington Dylan Maharg Karen Nelson Julie Peck	2/8	Brennan Jensen Linda Read Bella Yearry Marie Rauch	2/15	Phyllis Bauer Scott Erickson Cathy Grace Ava Meldrum	2/19	Chad Richards Dan Rispens Linda Gaughan Delaney Aschim
2/3	Amy Heuiser Gail McKinnon Molly Protheroe Signe Richardson	2/9	Dennis Heffner Brooke Ark Rachel Baranek Bryan Bergquist	2/17	Logan Colegrove Lynsey McHugh Matty Meldrum Mike Rand	2/20	Linda Gaughan Delaney Aschim Lilian Keeton Dan McLean
2/4	Eileen McLane Al Tompkins	2/10	Jerry Guay Ashleigh Heimbach Faith McAlpin Nedra Brown	2/16	Wayne Gabbert Delores Rosin	2/21	Delaney Aschim Lilian Keeton Dan McLean Claire Boe
2/5	Todd Passage	2/11		2/17		2/22	Claire Boe Billeta Dunn Rick Chapman
2/6	Anthony McAlpin	2/12		2/17		2/23	Rick Chapman Toni Guay Seth McDaid
				2/16		2/24	Toni Guay Seth McDaid Bill Engle Phyllis Michelson
				2/17		2/25	Phyllis Michelson Nathanael Hafer Pauline Knatterud Anna Young
				2/17		2/27	Anna Young Charlee Beto
				2/17		2/28	Charlee Beto



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

Children's Ministry Schedule

⇒ No Sunday School—Feb. 19th

Come to the Table

Come to the Table classes will be held for children in **2nd** thru **4th** grade and **any** other families interested in learning about Holy Communion.

Please save these dates:

April 2nd @1:00—Fed and Forgiven: An instructional time for both communicant and parents about Holy Communion.

Maundy Thursday, April 6th @ 6:30

We invite the children and their families to this very special service to celebrate their deepened understanding of communion and for those who are not yet communing, to receive their First Communion.



An invitation will be sent to all second, third and fourth grade students and their families. If you have any questions, please contact Liz at liz@ourredeemerlives.org or Pastor Trina at trina@ourredeemerlives.org.

Save the Date...

VBS 2023!!

Theme: TBD

VBS dates: June 12th-16th, 2023

VBS hours: 9AM—Noon, Monday thru Friday

We need **YOUR HELP!** We are in need of **VOLUNTEERS** to make VBS possible. Here are the following areas we need help:

- ◆ Crafts
- ◆ Classroom Leaders
- ◆ Classroom Assistants
- ◆ Games
- ◆ Kitchen
- ◆ Decorations/Stage Building
- ◆ Set-up and Clean-up Assistance



Registration will take place online. Please keep an eye out for more information on this coming soon!

Contact Liz for more information
liz@ourredeemerlives.org.



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.



February Anniversaries
Celebrate with those married
40 years or more this month!

2/26/1977	Clayton & Kathy Schenck	46 years
2/4/1974	Gene & Kathleen Ford	49 years
2/16/1974	Ron & Donna Greenwood	49 years

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.

Baptisms



1/1/23	Aiden Walter Peck
1/1/23	Caleb Gordon Peck

NURSERY NEWS!



In search of...

Dedicated and reliable **middle** and **high school** age youth who are interested in helping in the nursery on Sunday mornings from **8:15-Noon**.

Please email Liz at Liz@ourredeemerlives.org if

Acoustic Panel Project January 2023



In 2022-23, we designed a project to add about 400 square feet of acoustic (sound absorbing) panels to the back wall of our sanctuary, based on the recommendations of acoustician Sean Connolly. This was done to improve the intelligibility of speech and the quality of sound in the space. This happens by reducing the amount of reverberation (sound waves that bounce off the back wall and travel throughout the space). This project alone will not address all the issues we have with sound, but it is a piece of the puzzle, as we work to make our sound as accessible and easy to understand as possible.

Ice Skating @Memorial Park with Safehouse



Linus Project Tie Blankets

with Morgan May



Carroll College Concessions

with Eric Spangenberg



Macarons

With Emily & Lori Walter



Pottery

with Sherry Oster



Helena Food Share Kid Packs

with Judy & Bruce McMaster, Dave Mehl & Wayne Gabbert



CONFIRMATION UNIVERSITY

January Electives

January was a time when our youth were able to focus on fellowship, learning new skills, servicing others and trying new fun experiences together with members of our community! They were busy and enjoyed every minute of it!

A special thank you to all of our Elective leaders and to Kathy Olson and Ron

Pecarina for writing Thrivent Action Team Grants to help fund these events!

Enjoy some pictures from the events!



Cost

The Perpetual Fund committee awarded us a \$6,000 grant to complete this project. After getting quotes from three suppliers, we chose G&S Acoustics for custom pre-fab panels. The installation was done by members of our congregation at virtually no cost, which helped us stay on track. In total, we spent \$6,092 on the project.

Description	Vendor	Cost
Acoustic Panels: 389 SQ FT, over 57 panels and freight	G&S Acoustics	5667.00
Installation: Adhesive for panels	Power Townsend	99.96
Installation: Fasteners and anchors	Lowe's	49.16
Installation: spray adhesive and tooling	Lowe's	29.80
Installation: donuts for crew	Van's Thriftway	8.99
Installation: Lunches for crew	Winco	65.14
Feedback Destroyer: to control feedback freq in the mix	Amazon	171.79
		\$6,091.84

What's Next?

I will continue to work on improving sound quality. Two next big steps are to program the feedback destroyer we purchased and to retune the system, taking into account the panels.

Feedback is the term when a microphone 'hears itself', which creates a loop that we hear as an uncontrolled high-pitch squeal. This is undesirable and occurs when a microphone is turned up too loud or is placed in front of (instead of behind) speakers. A feedback destroyer is a computer-controlled device that automatically detects and notches out frequencies that feedback. I purchased one back in July and will soon be working on programming it. The result of this is that we will be able to turn up certain microphones a little bit louder.

Every space is unique and interacts with sound waves in a unique way. When a sound system is installed, it is tuned for that space, to maximize desired effects and minimize undesired ones. With the installation of the panels, the profile of the room has changed (that is, how sound waves interact with it). I am not a professional live-sound engineer, but I believe with my limited skills I will be able to reasonably tune our system to work with our space.

At some point in the future we will need to upgrade our sound system entirely. I don't know when that point is, it will largely be based on the priorities of our congregation. At that point, we can utilize a special type of speaker called a miniature line array, which is very new technology that would greatly improve intelligibility and sound quality. A system like this would cost around \$30,000 for our space. I estimate this project is 5-10 years out (but it's not up to me).

Thank You

Perpetual Committee for the funding
 Sean Connolly of Big Sky Acoustics for consulting (having drafted the initial recommendation in 2012)
 Gretchen Krumm for the design of the panels
 Dave Harris, Dave Mehl, Jerry Hoover, Ken Kolb, Tim Cail, Glenn Erickson, Fred Goughner, Nelson Bock, Kevin Mathews, Frank Gessaman, Tim Orthmeyer, Roy Henry for installation
 Charlene Mayala, Janet Erickson, and Bonner Armstrong for design consulting and other support

One final thank you to the whole congregation for your continued support and trust! I look forward to many more projects that enrich our worship experiences. On the next page, see pictures of the installation process.

Jason Callon
 Director of Worship and Arts



CONFIRMATION UNIVERSITY

Winter Retreat

February 18-20, 2023

The theme of this retreat is “**The Great Escape: Living Faith Freely**”. We will be exploring Old Testament stories that tell about God’s people and their struggle to live their faith freely. Come learn about Moses and the Israelites as they escape Pharaoh’s rule and journey to the Promise Land and Esther as she takes great risks to save her fellow believers in Christ.

We all face struggles in our daily lives that make it difficult to live out our faith freely. Come Spend a weekend among God’s Faithful people and be empowered to share your struggles and faith freely together!



Parental Advisory:

Every morning and evening we will have sessions that consist of worship music, drama and interactive teaching. The day will include time for quiet prayer, crazy games, crafts and small groups. There will also be surprises that cannot be given away at this time.

High school students will lead the retreat in worship and as small group facilitators. We believe that middle school students thrive on the example of faithful students near their age. We are blessed to have such faith-filled youth willing to spend their long weekend in service to our Confirmation University students!

Expect your students to come home whistling worship songs, wishing they were still at camp and filled with the Spirit!

Students will meet at ORLC at 8:00am on Saturday, February 18th, pile onto a bus and head to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. We will all return to ORLC on Monday, February 20th around 5:00pm.

Questions?! Contact Liz or Jackie at:

Church office: 406-442-7842

Email: Liz@OurRedeemerLives.org

Jackie@OurRedeemerLives.org



LIVING YOUR FAITH FREELY

Sign up Now!

Student’s Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Parent’s Name(s) _____

Grade _____

Special Medical and Dietary Needs _____

Yes! My parent has filled out a 2022-23 ORLC Permission Slip and it has been mailed in/turned in!

I need a new permission slip sent to me, please!

Please contact me about a scholarship to cover the registration fee. **Please don’t stay home due to the cost—we will find a way to cover it!**

* Please return this registration form and \$100.00 to ORLC by January 31st. The \$100 is non-refundable.

* Make checks payable to Our Redeemer’s Lutheran Church.



HOLY COMMOTION!

Wassup with our youth?



Safehouse in February



High school youth please join us during the month of February as we talk God's Love and relationships, plus prepare for the Youth Winter Retreat at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp!

Feb. 1 - God & Relationships

Feb. 8 - God & Relationships: Friends

Feb. 15 - God & Relationships : Family

Feb. 17-20 - Youth Winter Retreat @FLBC

Feb. 22 - **Ash Wednesday** - **No Safehouse**

YOUTH SUMMER SERVANT TRIP:



SOUTHWEST FLORIDA DISASTER RESPONSE,
SARASOTA, FL
JULY 2-10, 2023

High school youth, are you interested in going on a fun trip, meeting new people, fellowshiping and worshipping

together and using your gifts and talents to do God's work? Youth (finishing 8th grade through 2023 graduates) are invited to join our Servant Team next summer.

Our youth would partner with Hope Lutheran Church youth from Bozeman, MT to use your talents and skills to serve others. Luther Springs Bible Camp Staff would meet our team late Sunday afternoon at Faith Lutheran, Sarasota, FL. We will gather that evening for a time of team building, fun, games, and music. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday will be spent working on debris removal and other rebuild projects with Lutheran Disaster Response. On Thursday we will work alongside Faith Lutheran in their food distribution program. After our work is complete each day we will spend time at the beach enjoying some beach fun, sunset worship and devotions. There will also be a fun excursion during the week that might include either a snorkeling trip, sunset dolphin excursion or a boat outing.

Join us for our Next Servant Trip Meeting:

Where: Youth Loft @ ORLC

When: February 26 @ 12:15pm

What: We'll meet as a team to prepare, plan, talk about fundraisers, and more!

Questions?! Contact Jackie at 406-442-7842 or Jackie@OurRedeemerLives.org



It's time for Carroll College Basketball!

Our amazing partnership continues with Carroll College and Sodexo by manning the concessions at Carroll basketball games. We would work together as a team for each game and raise money for all of the fun things we will do this coming year: outdoor movie nights, retreats, indoor rock climbing, and especially next summer's servant trip! **We will need approximately 10 youth and adults to work each game.**

But wait! Adults, do you love hanging out with our youth and have a couple of hours to spare? We would love to have some adults hands helping with this endeavor too!

Basketball Games are:

⇒ Saturday, February 11 @1:30-5:30pm

⇒ Friday, February 24 @6:30-8:15pm

⇒ Saturday, February 25 @6:30-8:15pm

This will be fun new way to raise money, get to know one another, engage the community, and serve others!

If you are interested and able, please contact Jackie at 442-7842 or jackie@ourredeemerlives.org.

Want to know what's the latest happenings with Safehouse?!



Follow [ORLC Safehouse](#) on Facebook to be in the know! And if you are in need of quick text reminders about Safehouse events and happenings, you can sign up for quick text updates and reminders by texting [@safehouse2](#) to 81010.



Also, email Jackie at Jackie@ourredeemerlives.org to be added to the monthly Safehouse E-news.

Worship Assistant Schedule

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
First Sunday, February 5		
Usher	Larry Hanson, Ron Paulson	Kevin Mathews
Greeter	Lynda Hanson	Lisa Williams-Mathews
Communion	DeeDee & Gary Fischer	Kevin and Lisa
Altar Guild	Lori Walter	Lori Chase
Second Sunday, February 12		
Captain	Kristi Antosh	
Usher	Kristi Antosh, Roy Henry, Ken Kolb	Lynn Voss, Lon Bechtel
Greeter	Helen Bunkowske, Sharlene Kolb	Lynn Voss, Lon Bechtel
Communion	Gretchen Krumm, Sharlene Kolb	Lynn Voss, Lon Bechtel
Altar Guild	Charlene Mayala	Shannon Bartole
Third Sunday, February 19		
Usher	Dwight Hiesterman, Tom Johnson, Ed Johnson	Mark Langdorf, Lori Chase
Greeter	Roxanne Hiesterman, Pat Lumma	Mark Langdorf, Lori Chase
Communion	DeeDee & Gary Fischer	Mark Langdorf, Lori Chase
Altar Guild		Lori Chase
Fourth Sunday, February 26		
Captain	Ray Read	
Usher	Norm Midtlyng, Ray Read	Jan & Jeff Martin
Greeter	Norm Midtlyng, Ray Read	Jan & Jeff Martin
Communion	Linda Coty, Linda Nelson	Jan & Jeff Martin
Altar Guild	Lori Walter	Sharon Langdorf

February

2023

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
5 8:30am - Worship with the organ + KidTime 9:45am - Sunday School - CR#1 9:45am - Confirmation University - CR#4 11:00am - Worship with the band + KidTime	6 6:00pm - Preschool Board - CR5-6	7 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief - CR#5-6 10:30am - WELCA Board Meeting - AD#1 11:00am - Knitters for Peace 4:00pm - Kid Pack Build - Helena Food Share Warehouse
Family Promise February 5 - 12		
12 8:30am - Worship with the organ + KidTime 9:45am - Sunday School - CR#1 9:45am - Confirmation University - CR#4 9:45am - Grief Support Group - Conference Rm 11:00am - Worship with the band + KidTime	13	14 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief - CR#5-6 10:00am - Worship Service at Touchmark 11:00am - Knitters for Peace 4:00pm - Kid Pack Build - Helena Food Share Warehouse 6:30pm - Executive Committee meeting - Conference Rm
19 8:30am - Worship with the organ + KidTime 11:00am - Worship with the band + KidTime	20 ***** Youth Winter Retreat *****	21 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief - CR#5-6 10:00am - Dorcas Bible Study - Conference Rm. 11:00am - Knitters for Peace
26 8:30am - Worship with the organ + KidTime 9:45am - Sunday School - CR#1 9:45am - Confirmation University - CR#4 11:00am - Worship with the band + KidTime 12:10pm - Caregivers Support Group 12:15pm - Servant Team Meeting	27	28 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
1 9:00am - Men's Group - Conference Rm. 6:30pm - Evening Prayer Around the Cross 7:00pm - Confirmation University 7:00pm - Safehouse	2 9:00am - Sew In Love - CR5-6	3	4
8 9:00am - Men's Group - Conference Rm. 11:30am - Women's Bible Study - Conf. Rm 6:30pm - Evening Prayer Around the Cross 7:00pm - Confirmation University 7:00pm - Safehouse	9 9:00am - Sew In Love - CR5-6	10	11 Council Retreat
15 Voice Articles Due 9:00am - Men's Group - Conference Rm. 1:00pm - Rebecca Bible Study - Conf. Rm 6:30pm - Evening Prayer Around the Cross 7:00pm - Confirmation University 7:00pm - Safehouse	16 9:00am - Sew In Love - CR5-6	17	18 Youth Winter Retreat
22 9:00am - Men's Group - Conference Rm. 11:30am - Women's Bible Study - Conf. Rm 6:30pm - Ash Wednesday Worship	23 9:00am - Sew In Love - CR5-6	24 6:30pm - Carroll College Concessions	25 6:30pm - Carroll College Concessions

