

important the camel really was).

Christmas Eve worship services with the

Midnight Smørgåsbord Brass Quartet and

Kenny the Camel. Many children enjoyed

learning about the birth of Jesus (and how

Helena, Montana Permit No. 96 Organization Jifor9-noN ₽AID 90stage U.S. Postage



406-442-7842





Friendship Center on Thursday morning, December 5. Their mission is to bring comfort to Women at the

with a quilt and other personal items.

Friendship Center and the YWCA by providing each lady

# OUR REDEEMER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH **THE VOICE**



January 2025







The Women of the ELCA annual Christmas luncheon held at Touchmark. There was a great speaker, great food, and great company. The women donated 60 children's books for the children of the congregation.



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



Did you know that Our Redeemer's has its own elves who work constantly behind the scenes to help ensure that our worship services are welcoming and meaningful? These elves belong to an umbrella group known as the Altar Guild. Generally, Altar Guild refers to the folks who make sure we can

celebrate Communion each Sunday and who ensure the church's altar area is adorned appropriately for the various seasons and festival days of the church calendar. Lisa Williams-Mathews has led this group of women (no men...yet, except for Kevin) for 11 years. Altar Guild's members are Kristi Antosh, Lori Walter, Charlene Mayala, Sonja Amman, Shannon Bartole, Lori Chase, Sharon Langdorf, and Mary Williams. A subset of Altar Guild, coordinated by Lisa's sister, Kim Randall, makes the bread that becomes Christ's body in the Communion meal. Those members are: Audrey Schubring, Elaine Ulgenes, Ingrid Childress, Kim Randall, Lisa Mathews, Kristi Antosh, Lori Chase, Nelson Bock, Mary Robertson, Sandy Bay, and Tami Ellis. And even more people are involved in making our sanctuary beautiful. The Wednesday Men's group is always around when extra help is needed. Many thanks to Charlene Mayala and Blair and Gretchen Krumm for recently installing the beautiful blue banner hanging from the ceiling in the Sanctuary!

The routine work of preparing for each Sunday worship service includes filling approximately 200 tiny plastic cups with wine and grape juice, filling communion trays with those cups, filling candles with oil, cleaning and filling the baptismal font, cleaning the altar area, setting the Communion table, and cleaning up after service. Special services require additional tasks such as preparing candles for people to light on All Saints Sunday and at the Christmas Eve services and filling lots of wine and juice cups for Easter and Christmas!

Did you notice the big tree, the lights and greenery in the sanctuary, and the large nativity scene in the narthex that all appeared the first Sunday in Advent? Yep, that was the Altar Guild elves. They will also take down and store all those decorations after Epiphany (which is January 6 in 2025, in case you were wondering).

Speaking of the church calendar, Altar Guild decorates with colors designated for each season (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost) and special Sundays (Pentecost, Reformation Sunday, Easter, etc.). They do this mainly with 'paraments,' special banners and cloths that adorn the altar, altar area, and communion table. (The word 'paraments' comes the Latin word *paramentum*, meaning "adornment.") You've probably noticed and/or heard about a beautiful new set of white paraments. The white altar cloth was handwoven and donated by Delores Rosin in honor of her husband Larry. Janet Erickson and Charlene Mayala made the beautiful new guilts that are hanging at the front of the Sanctuary. A very talented artist is currently working to create a custom set of green paraments. As donations allow, more paraments will be commissioned to replace those in our inventory who are well past retirement age.





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, Office Manager LoriW@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Sarah Magee, Director of Finance Sarah@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Jason Callon, Director of Worship and Music Jason@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Steph Richardson, 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

**Brenda Stoltz, Preschool Director** Brenda@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Wendy Vukonich, Preschool Teacher Wendy@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Marie Grissom, Preschool Teacher Marie@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Kristen Sapp, Preschool Teacher Kristen@OurRedeemerLives.Org

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

Voice articles due on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month Sunday, December 15 at 5:00pm LoriW@OurRedeemerLives.Org

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#### **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:

> Ingrid Childress, President president@ourredeemerlives.org 406-431-3344 Liaison: Facilities and Administration

Tracy Moseman, Second Vice President mtmoseman@hotmail.com 406-431-4350 Liaison: Faith Formation

#### Tracey Tintinger, Treasurer

tvting@bresnan.net 406-459-8478 Liaison: Finance

#### Linda Nelson, Secretary

ralinelson@yahoo.com 406-422-3751 Liaison: Outreach

#### Kevin Mathews, Past President

kllpmath@msn.com 406-465-1839 Liaison: Worship

#### Julie Penner. Member at Large

julieanne.penner@gmail.com 406-227-7096 Liaison: Congregational Care and Fellowship

#### Ed Johnson, Member at Large

edwardmartinjohnson62@gmail.com 406-492-6177 Liaison: Worship

#### Jennifer Colegrove, Member at Large

colegrove@bresnan.net 406-465-3453 Liaison: Congregational Care and Fellowship

#### Sarah Sampson, Member at Large

sarahmarieirvin@hotmail.com 406-460-0133 Liaison: Faith Formation

#### Attila Folnagy, Member at Large

attilafolnagy@gmail.com 208-640-3198 Liaison: Facilities and Administration

Mary Kay Linke, Member at Large grizlinke@gmail.com 406-465-1099 Liaison: Outreach



# January BIRTHDAYS

(Remember our friends in Christ with a Birthday prayer!)

- 1 Wendy Studt
- 2 Craig Erickson Sharon Amor Haylee Tripp Tyler Trip
- 4 Tevin Wetzel
- 5 Saddie Connerton Joe Fischer
- 6 Denise Richards
- Delmar Schubring
- 9 Claudia Morley
- 10 Anna Marie Bartole 20 Mary Adams Cody Stipcich Carl Tanberg
- 13 Julie Mehl Cody Salo Laura Trapp 14 Mike Lindner 16 Shauna Helfert 19 Cheri Goosen Lachlan Hanson

12 Tamara Crowder

Tim Meldrum

**Bonnie Richmond** 

Susan Sielbach

Tyler Cook

- 21 Sheri Howell Kalley May Jerry Mayala Lance Wetzel
- 23 Treven Maharq Brad Ulgenes
- 24 Logan MacIntyre 25 FayeAnn Cummings
- Nolan Harris Sam Tintinger
- 26 Charlene Mayala **Bridger Voss**
- 27 Lori Bigwood-Pecarina Juni Penner

#### 28 Mandy Connolly Mary Robertson Diana Stoenhouse

- 29 Kileigh Bartole
- 30 Melissa Haab Marcy McLean
- Zaiden Salas 31 Alice Begger

#### REATION CARE



Matthew 6:28-29

Have you ever stood in front of your full closet and declared, "I have nothing to wear!" We Americans are very conscious of our appearances and like to be fashionable.

Nothing wrong with that...

But did you know that 4-10% of global greenhouse emissions are from the fashion industry? And synthetic fibers like polyester, nylon and spandex do not decompose and take 500-1,000 years to degrade, shedding microplastics as they do?

What's a person to do? Well, here are a few tips from "Keeping Your Closet Sustainable: How to Find Green Gear" from the 2025 Your Green Life magazine:

- 1. Consider shopping secondhand
- 2. Go natural, more cotton, linen, wool
- 3. Choose quality of product over quantity of clothes
- certified company. Check out GreenPages.org
- 5. Shop local when possible
- 6. Avoid impulse purchases. Choosing NOT to buy is also a sustainable act.

Can we resolve to be more intentional in our buying habits in the new year? Contacts: Nelson Bock - nbock6552@gmail.com and Elaine Ulgeness - elaineulge@yahoo.com

## 90+ years old

· — · · — · · — · · — · · — · · — · · — · · .

Let's celebrate our friends who have turned 90 years or older this month by sending them a birthday card.

Bonnie Richmond (age 90 on January 12) 716 Harrison Ave. Helena, MT 59601

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

1/17/1981 Ron Pecarina & Lori Bigwood-Pecarina 44 years 1/19/1973 Jerry & Judy Hoover 52 years 1/29/1956 Jim & Joan Haubein 69 years

#### DID YOU KNOW THAT OUR REDEEMER'S IS A SCOUTING CHARTER **ORGANIZATION?**

Since fall 2017, Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church has been the Charter Organization for Cub Scout Pack 207. As the Charter Organization, Our Redeemer's provides space for scouting meetings, activities, and assists Pack 207 in conducting a scouting program consistent with scouting rules, regulations, and policies.

Pack 207 currently has about thirty-five boys and girls in kindergarten through fifth grade participating in Pack and Den meetings which are typically held on Thursday evenings in the Great Room, with other events scheduled throughout the year. Upcoming events include Scouting Sunday on February 2, Pack Pinewood Derby races on February 13 at Our Redeemer's and the Prickly Pear District (all Cub Scouts in the Helena and surrounding counties) Pinewood Derby on February 22.

Pack 207 recognizes the support Our Redeemer's provides and is identifying service projects to complete at Our Redeemer's to show our appreciation. You are welcome to attend any meeting or event to see how scouts are benefitting from Our Redeemer's generosity as a Charter Organization. Please contact Kelley Bundt, the Pack 207 Cubmaster mtpack207@gmail.com, or Drew Sielbach, the Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church Charter Organization Representative dfshelena@qmail.com, if you have any questions or want additional information on scouting at Our Redeemer's.

#### Jesus said to them, "And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these."

4. Shop sustainable brands - Look for {GBN} symbol which indicates this is a Green Business Network

## Long Term Prayer Concerns

Help us update our Long Term Prayer Concerns list by calling the church office, 406-442-7842.

#### **Our Members**





KidTime and Sunday School will resume on January 5.

Have a wonderful break!

thank you

I want to share my deepest appreciation to everyone who volunteers their time and talents to support our Preschool- and Elementary-aged youth at Our Redeemer's!



## June 23-26, 2025

More information and registration coming soon

> Contact Liz with questions: liz@ourredeemerlives.org

## **January Schedule**

5



- Sunday School Jesus & Disciples
- 12 Sunday School — Jesus & Disciples
- 19 Sunday School — Jesus & Disciples
- Family Ski Day Great Divide 20
- 26 Sunday School—Jesus & Disciples

Gordon Blomquis
Richard Carey
Roberta Carey
Jim Haubein

ist Greg Johnson Noreen Johnson Carol Kimble **Chloe MacIntyre** 

#### **Our Family and Friends**

Danny McCaughan (nephew of Lori & Dave Swenson) **Scott Linke** (brother of Craig Linke) Ron Paulson (former member) Jacki Riley (sister of Lori Walter)

#### Our Family and Friends Serving in the Military

**Brandon Bach** Kyle Begger Erin DenHerder Kellan Elder Travis Elder Micah Emmons Jessilyn Emmons Grant Gagnon Adam Guay

**Ryan Girard Austin Grieve Travis Gronley** Charlie Heidbreder **Roger Henschel** Paul Horst Anela Hemry Wade Hemry **Cody Johnson** 

Nikki MacMillan Lorna Mever Dale Mickus Julie Mehl

Laurie Simms **Ruth Straley** 

#### **Our Seminarian**

#### Shawn, Sara, Addie & Kaden Juers

**Colton Johnson Chance McDowell** Kent McGowan Dean McLain Sawyer Linke Erin Mills **Brian Neal** Keith Nordquist **Chris Oelkers** 

Scott Pocha **Tanner Reddig** Cody Stipcich **Darrell Stipcich** Victoria Stipcich Tait Strom **Andrew Zimmer** 



#### **Executive Council Meeting Summary**

In December, the Executive Council met on behalf of the entire Council.

#### **Financial Report Review and Action**

Payments to Building Fund, Dedicated Funds, Benevolence and Endowment were held until the end of December because property taxes are due December 31, and December giving will likely make up the difference so that all funds can be paid. Further action will be taken at the January Council meeting.

#### Acceptance of 2023 Audit

The Council accepted the 2023 audit and expressed appreciation to the Audit Committee (Mike Burke, Paula Marble, and Jan Martin) for their fine work. The Council will address the recommendations next year, including an inventory of property assets. Next year's Audit Committee will begin its work in the spring of 2025.

#### Update on Solar Energy Proposal

The Solar and More Team is preparing a proposal for Solar Energy panel installation. Several documents were shared with the Council. The Executive Council requested that the complete proposal, along with fact sheets, be ready to share with the Council prior to its January meeting.

#### Pastor's Report

Pastor Trina once again expressed extreme gratitude for the assistance of Jane Peachey and Dennis Trotter while we are in the process of seeking an associate pastor. She and Tracy Moseman have been working with the preschool board as they seek additional funding sources for the preschool and look at possible reconfiguration of class offerings.



#### From the Associate Pastor Call Committee

We would like to thank you all for sharing your thoughts with us concerning our expanding the search for another pastoral candidate. We appreciate the discussions after church in November and the emails, notes, shared comments no matter how they came in. The committee will be meeting again in early January to decide our next steps and will keep you posted as things progress. As an FYI to you, we did have the potential of another candidate, but the candidate and family decided they wanted a more metropolitan climate to raise their family and thus we did not get beyond the Zoom interview with this candidate. Yep, we are back again to reaching out for candidates interested in our church, our church family and the Helena Valley. If you know of anyone that might be interested, please do forward their name to our chair. Abby McLane. Thank you for your continued support and pravers for the Holy Spirit to help us find the ideal candidate. God's Blessings on us all in this new year.







Come out and enjoy a day at Great Divide with other families from church. If you are a seasoned skier/boarder that's great, if you are not... it's a good day to try something new.

When: Monday, January 20 (MLK day, No School)

Where: Meet at Great Divide in the lodge between 9:30 and 10:00 AM. Steph will have lift tickets and point you in the right directions for your needs. If a lesson is needed, Steph will let you know how to get to where you need to be. If you are coming without parents, pick up in the lodge is at 4:00 PM.

Who: Families of the congregation.

Cost: If you have gear and a season pass, bring that and the day is free. If you need a lift ticket and/or rentals, bring \$25 to help cover costs. The church will cover the rest. Do not let \$\$ stand in your way. Talk to Pastor Trina or Steph if this is preventing you from coming.

What to bring: Bring a lunch. Wear snow gear. Dress accordingly.

#### Sign up no later than Sunday January 12

Follow this QR code or link to sign up

https://forms.gle/ CgXrmiNJ6TU6ZkaFA



FLATHEAD LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP SUMMER DATES July 6 - 11 & July 13 - 18, 2025

Steph will be helping with transportation up to FLBC. Please let her know if you need/want help getting up there.



#### **HIGH SCHOOL BACKPACKING TRIP**



There is a High School backpacking trip scheduled with Christikon

### July 27-August 2, 2025

Pastor Trina and Dennis will be heading up there that week to help with transportation. Let Pastor Trina or Steph@ourredeemerlives.org know if you are interested, or if you have any questions.



#### **All Youth Winter Retreat**

What: We will be busy with all sorts of things... hiking, devotionals, mediative time, sledding, sauna sitting (optional), polar plunging (optional), crafts, and Bible studies.

When: Depart from the church the morning of Saturday, February 15. Return to the church the evening of Monday, February 17.

Where: Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

**Who**: This is an all youth retreat for 6-12 grade. FRIENDS ARE WELCOME TO COME!

**Cost**: \$100/person. This includes transportation, lodging, food, and all activities. This fee is due to the church by February 9. DO NOT LET \$\$ stand in your way. The church will make this happen for you if you can not budget the fee.

https:// Register atforms.gle/8gGhDeJxuG4gg84o8



# The Birth

# Children's Christn



















#### What's Up with the Hunger Team?

Tuesday, January 28, 6:30 PM - Hunger Team monthly meeting. Hunger Team meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM. It is an energetic, self-directed group of folks passionate about the needs of hungry and homeless persons in our community. Each person gives of his/ her talents to share this mission with the entire congregation. If you have such a passion, feel free to attend these meetings. The group always welcomes new members.

#### Looking for a Contact with God's Love

For years, Our Redeemer's has kept in contact with the needs of our homeless neighbors at God's Love. Several of you have asked, where is the God's Love collection box? Because of changing responsibilities on the Hunger Team, we no longer have a person to serve as the liaison with God's Love. If you might be willing to take on this ministry, please contact Kathy Olson at 406-431-8686. The job involves regular visits to God's Love to check on recent needs and transporting donated items to God's Love.

#### Family Promise

Our Redeemer's will be hosting Family Promise guests the week of February 2-8. Our responsibilities include overnight hosts for seven evenings, setting up (Sunday, February 2) and taking down (Sunday, February 9) of rooms for overnight accommodations, and five dinner meals. If you would be willing to provide any of these services, please contact Linda Coty 406-443-5857 for overnight hosting, Judy McMaster 406-465-7118 for setting up or taking down rooms, or Linda Nelson 406-422-3751 for dinner meals. It truly takes a village to provide for our neighbors. We must have two overnight hosts for each evening, about 10-12 people for room set -ups and take downs, and five persons for meal hosts. Thank you in advance to all the wonderful people who continually give of your time and talent for this ministry.

#### Kid Packs

Yes, we're still building kid packs the first three Tuesdays of each month, 4:00-6:00 PM at the new Helena Food Share facility. We are continuing to collect low sugar granola bars for the Kid Pack Program. Just leave those packages of granola bars in the Helena Food Share crates in the hallway for delivery to Helena Food Share. Thank you once again for your generosity.

#### **Merry Christmas from the Preschool!**

We have been working on a fun holiday season!

November was filled with learning about fall, sharing, and giving. Our Preschool donated an average of two food items per child to Our Redeemer's Helena Food Share drive. The children enjoyed carrying the food into the sanctuary.

This December we are engaging in the exciting festivities of Christmas, practicing for Christmas programs, and keeping the theme on Jesus.

Thank you to all who supported the November magazine fundraiser for our Preschool! Charleston Wrap donated 40% of total sales; we will be receiving a check for \$938.80!!

We are all looking forward to Christmas and the New Year. We hope you find time to reminisce with family and friends as you make new memories and celebrate the hope and blessings that the new year brings.





#### Adult Education

On Sunday, January 12, Nelson Bock will show a video and lead a discussion of an interview with Brian McLaren about his latest book Life After Doom. McLaren is a teacher and pastor, and author of numerous books on the intersection of Christian faith and culture. In *Life After Doom* he outlines and explores several possible scenarios for human civilization given the urgency of the climate crisis, and then addresses the guestion what is the meaning of "hope" and what does it mean to live as people of hope in those various scenarios.

r of Jesus ras Program 2024







#### **CAREGIVER'S SUPPORT GROUP**

Long winter days can make one feel increasingly isolated especially when caring for a loved one. The Caregiver's Support Group is a safe place to share joys and challenges, laughter and tears. We will meet at Our Redeemer's on Sunday, January 26th at 9:45 AM in th Conference Room. Companionship for your loved one is provided.

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The grief group will meet Sunday January 12 between services. Grief knows no time frame and those of us who are journeying together through it lean on each other. All those who are grieving are welcome to join us. We share laughter, memories and tears. We are not broken, we simply seek the support and care of others finding their path through loss. Please feel free to call Jane Peachey or Lori Bigwood-Peccarina with questions or for a listening ear.

If you wish to speak to one of the leaders during the week or have any questions, please get in touch with us at the following numbers:

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

#### **Touchmark Worship Services**

Lay Pastor Associates Kevin Mathews and Lisa Williams-Mathews will be leading the Touchmark Worship and Communion service on January 21 at 10:00 AM. Sharlene Kolb will assist. We gather in the forum which is located on the second floor. If you would like to worship with our Touchmark family, you are welcome to attend. The address is 915 Saddle Drive.



Thank you to all who devoted their time and talents to make this possible!!











January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday			1 Office Closed	9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6	3	<b>4</b>
8:30am - Worship + KidTime 9:45am - Sunday School 1:00am - Worship + KidTime	6 10:00am - Staff Meeting	7 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 11:00am - Knitters for Peace	<b>8</b> 9:00am - Men's Group - Great Room 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer - Youth Loft 6:00pm - Confirmation 6:00pm - Youth Group	9 9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6	<b>10</b> 9:00am - Preschool Board Meeting - Community Room	11
8:30am - Worship + KidTime 9:45am - Sunday School 9:45am - Confirmation - Loft 9:45am - Adult Ed class - <i>Life After Doom</i> 9:45am - Grief Support Group - Conference Rm 11:00am - Worship + KidTime	<b>13</b> 10:00am - Staff Meeting 6:00pm - Preschool Advisory Board Meeting - Conference Rm	<b>14</b> 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 11:00am - Knitters for Peace 6:30pm - Executive Committee meeting - Conference Rm	<b>15</b> <u>Voice Articles Due</u> 9:00am - Men's Group - Great Room 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer - Youth Loft 1:00pm - WELCA Bible Study 6:00pm - Youth Group	<b>16</b> 9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6	17	18
8:30am - Worship + KidTime 9:45am - Sunday School 9:45am - Confirmation - Loft 11:00am - Worship + KidTime 12:15pm - New Member Orientation -	20 10:00am - Staff Meeting	21 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 10:00am - Touchmark Worship and Communion 10:00am - WELCA Board - Small Conference Room 11:00am - Knitters for Peace 5:30pm - Council Meeting	<b>22</b> 9:00am - Men's Group - Great Room 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer - Youth Loft 6:00pm - Youth Group	<b>23</b> 9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6 5:30pm - Long Range Planning Committee - Conference Room	24	25
<b>8:30am - Worship</b> 9:45am - Sunday School 9:45am - Confirmation - Loft 9:45am - Care Givers Support Group - Conference Room <b>11:00am - Worship</b>	27 10:00am - Staff Meeting	<b>28</b> 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 11:00am - Knitters for Peace 6:30pm - Hunger Team - Conference Room	<b>29</b> 9:00am - Men's Group - Great Room 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer - Youth Loft 6:00pm - Youth Group	30	31	Our Redeemer's will be hosting Family Promise beginning February 2, 202

#### . . \_\_ . . \_\_ . . \_\_ . . \_\_ . . \_\_ . . \_\_ . . \_\_ . . \_\_ . . \_\_ . . \_\_ . . \_\_ . . \_\_ . . \_\_ . . \_\_ . . \_\_ . . \_\_ Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, February 9, 2025 Worship at 9:30 AM

Meeting and potluck at 10:30 AM Only one service that day!

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#### **New Member Orientation**

If you are interested in formalizing your relationship with this congregation, a very general introduction to Our Redeemer's will be offered twice:

#### Sunday, January 19 or 26 at 12:15pm

Please call the church office and let Lori Walter know if you'll be attending either of these so we can be ready to welcome you. She can be reached at <u>LoriW@OurRedeemerLives.Org</u> or 406-442-7842.

We will welcome new members during our February 2 worship services.



