

CREATION HIKES
JULY 13: EDDY MCCLURE EAST
AUGUST 3: TROUT CREEK CANYON

This hike leaves from Arrowroot Dr. above South Hills Road and is an out and back route totaling approximately 4 miles with about 500ft of climbing each way to a ridge and overlook in the middle of the route. Remember to bring a lunch to enjoy at the top and water to stay hydrated. We will meet in the Great Room and then depart from the south church parking lot at 11:00am.



Pictures from Skidway Wildflower Hike in June



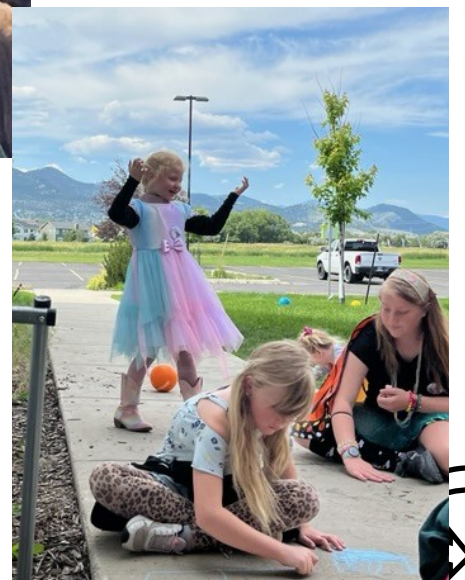
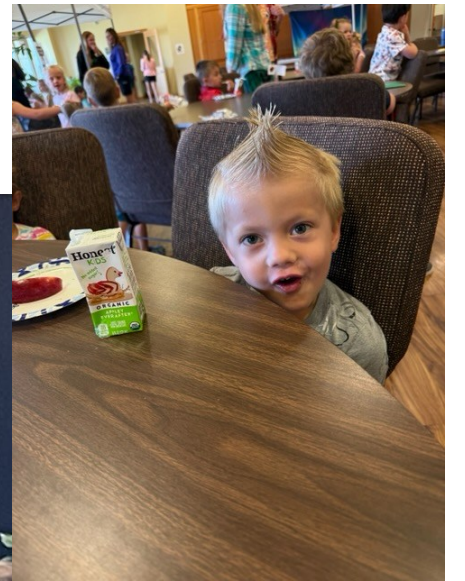
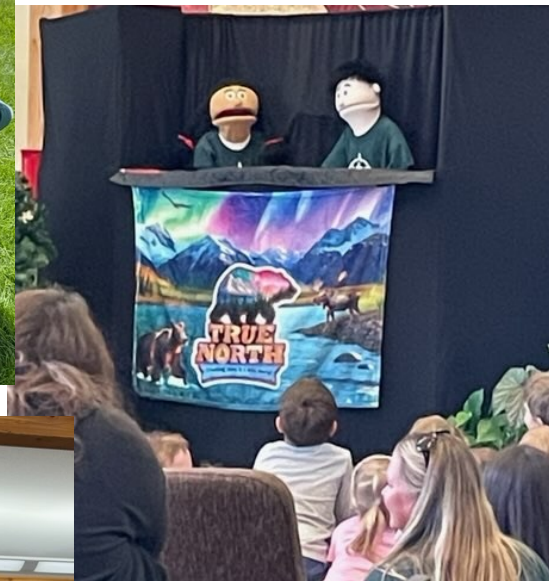
OUR REDEEMER'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
THE VOICE

July 2025



Your Outreach in this Place and Time

As I write this, we are in day three of Vacation Bible School. I hope you had a chance to stop by for morning worship or just to walk through all the excitement. Almost every space in the building and a good part of the grounds outside were full of kids having a blast. Thanks to Liz Swenson (director of children and family ministry), the rest of the staff, and almost 50 volunteers who made it run like a well-oiled machine. We haven't run the stats on the event yet, but usually 65-70% of the attendees *are not members* of Our Redeemer's, making it one of our larger outreach events each year. Many of those kids we'll never see again, but my hope is that as they drive past our campus over the years, they will remember the feeling of being welcomed and encouraged and loved by the people they met here. That is being Jesus in this place and this time, and you do it well, dear people of Our Redeemer's.



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

Contin-

Staff Transitions

After the busyness of Vacation Bible School, summer is usually a pretty quiet time around here, as staff takes some well-deserved vacation and does planning for the fall. But this year we have some transitions that are making things more lively than usual. Jason Callon has moved on to a full-time internship position on the behavioral health unit at St. Peter's Hospital as he continues to work on his counseling degree. We thank him for seven years of service and wish him well in his new role.

Pastor Adam Barnhart is here! Along with wife, Annie, and Noah (19), Ben (17), and Abi (15). Ben and Abi even jumped in to help with VBS, Ben on the guitar for music and Abi with a group of feisty preschoolers. By the time this gets into your homes we will have welcomed them with a BBQ/potluck on June 29, but it's pretty hard to meet a couple hundred people at once so Pastor Adam will have open office hours this summer on Tuesday mornings from 9:00 - 11:00. Stop by and introduce yourself. Other times can be arranged by emailing him at (adam@ourredeemerlives.org). He says offerings of Mountain Dew are always welcome...!

Music Ministry Update

With the departure of our part-time director of worship and music, I've been fielding questions about and requests for what happens next in this area of our life together. Kevin Mathews and Autumn Keller have agreed to get us through the summer, helping to choose music and oversee the band, and we have two new additions to our fellowship who have years of experience and interest in this area as well. More on this as things develop. Pastor Adam brings with him good skills in the technical areas (sound system management, livestreaming, creating slides for worship), so with that area covered, we will take the summer to figure out what our ongoing needs in the area of worship and music will be. We also eagerly anticipate the results of the HolyCow! survey to help guide us in this area.

A Final Request, and a Final Thought

In last month's article I reminded us all to be faithful in our support of the ministries of Our Redeemer's in these summer months, when giving tends to dip. While many of us are enjoying time off and summer vacations, we as a church family continue to provide significant help to Helena Food Share, God's Love, Family Promise, Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, and our seminarian Shawn Juers, not to mention our ongoing programming for children and youth throughout the summer. If you'd like to increase your monthly online gift or make a special one-time gift, Lori Walter can assist you with this (loriw@ourredeemerlives.org).

Our teenaged nieces from Great Falls have been with us this week, helping out with Vacation Bible School. We sat around a fire pit on the back deck tonight and shared stories of what we've seen as we hosted all those sweet kids at Our Redeemer's. Dennis and Emily are working with many 6th graders headed into confirmation in the fall, who can't wait to make the move to Wednesday night activities. Claire has a group of preschoolers who have kept her in stitches all week. I continue to marvel at the joy and belonging I witness as I walk around the building. Being a space full of love and acceptance and safety is not to be underestimated in these days. Thanks be to God that we are able to be that for our neighbors.

Pastor Trina



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

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church

3580 N Benton Ave
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406.442.7842

www.ourredeemerlives.org

Ministry Team

Ministers: **All the People of God**

Pastor Trina Johnsten, Lead Pastor

Trina@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Pastor Adam Barnhart, Pastor

Adam@OurRedeemerLives.Org

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Sarah@OurRedeemerLives.Org

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Liz@OurRedeemerLives.Org

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David McHaley, Custodian

Carol Will, Deacon

Lori Bigwood-Pecarina, Lay Ministry Associate

Jan Martin, Lay Ministry Associate

Jeff Martin, Lay Ministry Associate

Kevin Mathews, Lay Ministry Associate

Lisa Williams-Mathews, Lay Ministry Associate

Brenda Stoltz, Preschool Director

Brenda@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 15th of each month

Tuesday, July 15 at 5:00pm

LoriW@OurRedeemerLives.Org

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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president@ourredeemerlives.org

208-640-3198

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Charlie Gorman, First Vice President

cegorman3@gmail.com

406-202-9509

Liaison: Worship

Jennifer Colegrove, Second Vice President

colegrove@bresnan.net

406-465-3453

Liaison: Congregational Care and Fellowship

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Liaison: Facilities and Administration

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Liaison: Finance

Linda Nelson, Secretary

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Liaison: Outreach

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Liaison: Faith Formation

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406-465-1099

Liaison: Outreach

Charlotte Neill, Member at Large

cneill001@luthersem.edu

651-587-8083

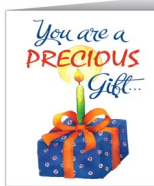
Liaison: Faith Formation

Jack Palmer, Member at Large

johnpalmerpro@gmail.com

406-274-8566

Liaison: Congregational Care and Fellowship



July Birthdays!

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

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Shana DeBoer | 5 Andrew Callon | 15 Isaac Penner | 29 John Darlow |
| Chris Olson | Leon Sedlezky | Harper Smith | 30 Robin Ericksen |
| Dale Reagor | 6 Amber Jellison | 16 Dee Dee Fischer | Marilyn Murray |
| 2 Randy Coty | 8 Drake McArthur | 17 Judy Hoover | Burt Ward |
| Darbie Hess | 9 Tony Stonehouse | Ben Tinting | 31 Jim Haubein |
| George Kitts | Rio Willard | Lillian Liston | Brenna Lawton |
| Sharon Langdorf | Marlene Williamson | Letty Richardson | Lauren Wetherell |
| Skip Verworn | 10 Frank Gessaman | 22 Jan Miller | |
| Shannon Voss | 11 Levi DeLaHunt | 24 Ron Whitmoyer | |
| 3 Sandy Merdinger | 13 Kendall Salo | 25 Evalena Henry | |
| 4 Todd Byrne | 14 Alan Baglien | 26 Jenny Harris | |
| Nancy Goughnour | Glenn Kenney | 27 Tim Orthmeyer | |
| | Lynn Taborsky | 28 Laila Steinhoff | |

July Anniversaries

Celebrate with those married 40 years or more this month!

Norm & Karen Midtlyng	7/12/1980	45 years
Bob & Linda Winfield	7/7/1979	46 years
Del & Audrey Schubring	7/16/1963	62 years

90+ YEARS OLD

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

Nancy Goughnour (age 97 on July 4)
570 B State St
Helena, MT 59601

Jim Haubein (age 90 on July 31)
915 Saddle Dr. Rm. 212
Helena, MT 59601



Funerals

Kenneth Richmond 6/17/2025
Jeannie Ryan 6/28/2025

REFLECTIONS ON THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY FROM THOSE WHO REPRESENTED US:

Abby McLane

This Synod meeting was perhaps more dramatic than a typical meeting, there was high drama surrounding the balloting and voting process for the Bishop's election. We witnessed some exciting votes which were invalidated due to a mismatch in the number of ballots vs. the number of credentialed voters. As we watched the Synod staff and the ELCA Secretary invalidate ballots that did not meet the voting standards, it was interesting to observe the process in real time. One began to get an understanding behind the strict adherence to the process! Eventually the root issue was identified and smoothed out, but I felt a new appreciation for all the rules and structure surrounding the event.

I also appreciated that in the midst of this process-heavy function, before every vote, the Prayer Team provided a meditation or prayer to help everyone to focus on the Holy Spirit as we considered our votes. I really lauded the intentional focus and reminder to bring the Holy Spirit into the process. The prayer before each vote was an important reminder that our ultimate goal was to pick the best individual to lead our Synod. Especially when the voting was dramatic and sometimes even frustrating, I valued that prayerful reminder and grounding.

Attila Foinagy

The Montana Synod Assembly theme was Equipping for Hope. The theme resonated through many topics from discussions on the projects that the Synod is partnering with Helping Hands Ministry on and memorials on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons and Indian Boarding Schools. The Synod is working hard to find pastors for rural congregations and funding efforts to find and educate prospective pastors. Keep these efforts in your prayers.

And drumroll..., the Synod Assembly elected a new Bishop after 5 ballots, but it was closer to 10 ballots because there were mishaps with distributing ballots which voided their respective round of voting. It was worth the wait as Pastor Ben Quanbeck was elected Bishop. He is from Shepard with a farming and agricultural engineering background and is currently serving as co-lead pastor with his wife in Billings. I enjoyed getting to know Pastor Trina, Nelson, Abby, and Carol better and catching up with other pastors (especially Pastor Baird) and attendees. If the events at the synod assembly sound interesting, please consider joining the council for the opportunity to represent Our Redeemer's.

Carol Will

Despite initial challenges in validating voting credentials for the Bishop's Election, the assembly proceeded with a spirit of unity, purpose, and a hope that the voting ballots matched the number of credentialed voters. The event was marked by a profound message of hope delivered by Dave Scholten, the Synod Treasurer. In his Treasurer's Report, Scholten emphasized that the term "abound" signifies more than enough—it suggests that hope is not just a small fleeting emotion, but a deep-seated, overflowing reality. This powerful message resonated with attendees, reinforcing the Synod's commitment to faith, community, and the abundant possibilities ahead. Consequently, a successful election resulted in the call of Reverend Ben Quanbeck from King of Glory Lutheran Church in Billings, Montana, as our new Bishop. His election marks a significant moment in the Synod's leadership, reflecting a commitment of faith and service. This was apparent as he sang a phrase, "Will You Let Me Be Your Servant" in one of his interview questions. It was a pleasure to represent our congregation at the 2025 Montana Synod Assembly and connect with others from our congregation and the Synod.

Nelson Bock

I was privileged to be one of three elected voting members of Our Redeemer's at the Synod Assembly in May. There was a lot of excitement due to the agenda being dominated by the election of a bishop. That excitement was augmented--or perhaps tempered-- by the fact that several votes had to be done over due to discrepancies in counting. However, when all was said and done, I, along with a majority of the voting members, was pleased with the election of Rev. Ben Quanbeck of Billings as our new Bishop. We pray for Bishop Quanbeck's ministry and service to the church.

As always, another highlight of the assembly was the main service of worship with Holy Communion. Though there may be differences of opinion on various issues, the Eucharist unites us as one in Christ. Thanks be to God!

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

June 17, 2025

May Financial Report

General receipts for the Ministry Fund totaled \$41,627 for May, and Building Fund donations for May totaled \$6,790.93 (\$4,112 less than the monthly mortgage payment). The Council agreed to forward the Building Fund amount of \$6,790.73 to Mission Investment Funds but to hold the donations to the Synod at this time, in order to keep a sufficient cash balance.

Ministry Team and Committee Reports

Pastor Trina reported on the resignations of Jason Callon, Director of Worship and Music, and of Brenda Stoltz, Director of the Preschool. Summer music and worship plans are in the process of being finalized with Pastor Trina. Kristen Sapp will assume responsibilities as Director of the Preschool, as well as half-time teacher. The preschool registrations for the 2025-26 school year are down, probably due to the expansion of the KinderSprouts program in the public schools. The Council moved to keep Jane Peachey on staff as Care Coordinator for five hours a week until the end of December. She has done a great job of making connections with those who need special care, and she will continue during this transition time after Pastor Adam arrives.

The HolyCow! survey has been completed, and the Council extends its gratitude to everyone who took the time to participate in this survey. Council members, Long Range Planning Committee members, staff members and others who represent various ministries in the church will be invited to a Zoom meeting to review the interpretation of the data collected on July 23 at 6:00pm.

A Synod grant of \$3000 was recently awarded to the Preschool for playground improvements. Thanks to Jerry Hoover, and Brenda Stoltz, who submitted this grant request.

New Business

The Council reviewed and approved our Financial Policies.

The Council will not meet in July, but the Executive Council will meet on July 13 at 11:00am.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Nelson, Secretary

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Update

Director Brenda Stoltz has decided to move on from the preschool, effective July 31. She was a godsend this past year, coming in just days before school started, in a time of transition both with preschool staffing and the impact of the new KinderSprouts program being offered in our local schools. We are very grateful for her positive attitude and the good energy she brought into the preschool.

Kristen Sapp, who taught the three-year-olds last year, had helped with Lunch Bunch the previous two years, and has a graduate degree in education, will be taking over the Director responsibilities, as well as continuing to teach the three-year-olds in the mornings. There will be an Instructional Aide present from 8:00-1:00 each day to facilitate her balancing teaching and being the Director.

We also welcome Angie Adams as the teacher for the four-year-old and Pre-K students. Angie just graduated from Carroll College with a teaching degree and led our two summer camps for preschoolers this summer.

Pastor Trina hosted three of the four preschool graduations in May, and farewells to long-time teacher Wendy Vukonich. There were many positive comments from parents and grandparents about the growth of their child this year. This ministry to the youngest among us and the broader Helena community bears good fruit daily.

Jerry Hoover and Brenda put together a grant request to the Hetzel Foundation, and were awarded \$3000 toward playground upgrades for the preschool. (<https://www.hetzelfoundation.org>) More information on this project to come, including ways to support it.

LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS

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

Our Members

Gordon Blomquist	Jim Haubein	Chloe MacIntyre	Ron Pecarina
Richard Carey	Greg Johnson	Lorna Meyer	Ruth Straley
Roberta Carey	Noreen Johnson	Dale Mickus	Elmer Strong
George Hafer	Carol Kimble	Julie Mehl	Mary Williams

Our Family and Friends

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

Our Seminarian

Shawn, Sara, Addie & Kaden Juers

Our Family and Friends Serving in the Military

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



Walk and Ride July 13, 7:30 am Prickly Pear Park, East Helena

Registration begins in April
The Montana Synod Hunger Fund supports hunger efforts throughout Montana and northern Wyoming.

Join us for the Dough for Daily Bread Bike Ride, Walk, and Run in East Helena on Sunday, July 13, at the beautiful new Prickly Pear Park by Kleffner Ranch. Starting at 7:00am, bike a 20-mile loop to Clancy or at 7:30am for a run or walk 5k at Prickly Pear Park to benefit the Montana Synod Hunger Fund. All around the Montana Synod, more and more people are experiencing hunger. Congregations are responding to the hunger needs in their communities in various ways, from food pantries to community meals to community gardens. With ever-increasing demand, the Montana Synod Hunger Fund provided \$28,768 in grants in 2024 and 2025 to hunger ministries. Through your participation in this fundraiser, bike ride, run, and walk, we can continue to work to end hunger!



Register here:
<https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/10022515>



Upcoming Retreats & Events 2025

- Apr 4-5 **CAMPfirmation Retreat Part 2**
- Apr 27-29 **Caring for Creation: Finding our way with honesty, humility, curiosity & compassion (Adult Spirituality Retreat)**
- May 11 **Mother's Day Brunch**
- May 23-26 **Memorial Weekend Work & Family Retreat - FREE!**
- June 6-8 **Women's Retreat**
- June 7 **Partners Luncheon with speaker Baird Linke**
- June 17-28 **Greece Trip – Journey with Paul**
- July 4-6 **FLBC Family Weekend Summer 2025 staff families come free**
- Aug 17-20 **Pack & Pray Adult Backpacking Trip**
- Aug 29-Sep 1 **Labor Day Family & Work Retreat - FREE!**
- Oct 11 **Harvest Festival & Annual Meeting**
- Oct 30-Nov 2 **Quilting & Crafts Retreat**
- Nov 14-16 **Yoga Retreat with Pr. Kelsey Beebe. Ages 16+**
- Dec 5-7 **Family Advent Retreat**
- Dec 6 **Cookie Making Day**
10am-3pm – Take a bunch of cookies home!

We hope to see you soon!

Mark your calendar and register soon for these upcoming events & retreats!



A Note from Margie

Dear friends,

How can I ever thank you?? These past nearly 14 years have flown by and have been the most amazing years of my life.

It has been my honor to serve thousands of campers and retreat guests. And I have had the privilege of working with outstanding board members, staff members, volunteers, and donors. Each person has blessed my life in some way, and each of these people have used their gifts to bring glory to God at FLBC. It has been a true blessing. Together we have led this growing organization into many new and exciting endeavors. I am so very thankful for what by the grace of God what we have been able to accomplish together.

FLBC is in great hands with our board and staff, as together we work to bring the new strategic plan and master plan to life. Going where God is calling this ministry to be in the future.

I am thankful to be asked to continue the 'behind the scenes' work, on a part time basis, with the board of directors, who will be leading the capital campaign. I hope my new call will bring more time to visit with you over a cup of coffee or for a hike.

With all thanks and praise, and in service to God...

Sincerely,

HUNGER TEAM NEWS

What Happened to the Summer Milk Campaign?

The Hunger Team is still fully committed to raising milk for the Kid Pack program at Helena Food Share. However, due to grant deadlines and other financial commitments for the summer, the team has moved the campaign to the fall. The annual milk campaign will launch on Sunday, September 7, and conclude on Sunday, October 12. That's a much narrower window of opportunity, but it also means that the campaign will be more focused. Stay tuned for more information on the *Strong Bones-Strong Minds* campaign launching right after school starts this fall. In the meantime, if you want a small glass milk bottle to collect your coins during the summer, pick one up at the Helena Food Share display in the hallway outside the sanctuary. Bottles were distributed to children and youth before their summer break.

What's Happening in the Garden?

First of all, a huge "THANK YOU!" to everyone who helped Karen Nelson in the Community Garden on Sunday, June 8. The assistance with planting tomatoes, peppers, and onions was greatly appreciated. These plants, donated by Carroll College, are planted in the section for Helena Food Share. Since we are without a manager for that section of the garden this summer, it will need continual maintenance. And yes, the bindweed will soon take over the garden unless we help with weeding. So please stop by and weed occasionally. Garden tools inside the fence are available for your use.

All the rental plots have been taken, and Elaine Ulgenes is supervising that section of the garden. The garden soil is in excellent condition, thanks to Vicki Downhour's continual oversight over the past several summers. Vicki, you will be greatly missed when you move. Thanks again for your hard work in bringing our garden back to life.

The garden is growing well. The Food Share area can always use volunteers because the "Race against the Bindweed" continues. If you feel called to this endeavor (really, weed-pulling is quite satisfying!), please get in touch with Elaine Ulgenes at 406-399-0717 or elaineulge@yahoo.com for specific instructions.

If you have clean grass clippings (no chemicals), you can leave them south of the garden near the picnic table and chickens. These are used for mulch-conserving moisture in the soil and weed suppression.

Thank you to all who contribute to the Food Share garden! It's a team effort!



WELCA

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Women will gather on Monday, July 21, at 10:00am to begin discussing our fall bazaar, scheduled for Saturday, November 8. All are welcome to come and participate in the planning process. For more information or to help, contact Charlene Mayala at csmayala66@gmail.com or 406-465-0956.

See you there!

Save the Date

The Women's Retreat at Our Redeemer's is being planned for September 26-27.



Thank you to **all** who donated materials and volunteered for our True North VBS.

We are so grateful to each of you for your generosity!

Join us this SUMMER...

July - August - KidTime all Summer

July 6-11 - Our Redeemer's @ FLBC

July 13-18 - Our Redeemer's @ FLBC

August 24 - Blessing of the Backpacks during 9:30am worship

* Please keep an eye on your email throughout the summer for more information about events! Contact Liz with questions: liz@ourredeemerlives.org



Blessing of the Backpacks

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

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church will hold a Blessing of the Backpacks Milestone Celebration on **Sunday, August 24**, at the **9:30am** summer service.

We invite **ALL** students (from preschool through college) to come with their backpacks or school bags. 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!

***Contact Liz at liz@ourredeemerlives.org with questions!**



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

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Are you interested in formalizing your relationship with Our Redeemer's? New Member Orientations will be offered Sunday, August 24 and Sunday, August 31 right after worship at 10:45am. Come learn more about the ministries of Our Redeemer's. Child care offered. New members will be welcomed during worship on Sunday, September 7.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know...a team of "older guys" meets for an hour or so every Wednesday morning at 9:00am, in the Great Room, to discuss any issue that comes to mind! They often talk about folks in our church who enhance the many of Our Redeemer's ministries and our mission. However, many of you might not know some of these individuals because they work behind the scenes and do not seek recognition. So, each month, one of us interviews one of the folks that comes to our collective mind and shares with you some little-known facts about them.



Darbie Hess grew up in Havre, Montana. She was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith. She and her four younger brothers went to First Lutheran Church with their parents as far back as she can remember. Darbie graduated from Havre High School and the North Dakota State School of Science in Wahpeton with a degree in Dental Hygiene. Her husband, Bill, attended Havre High School, and they knew of each other but did not become acquainted until their college years. They married and moved to Dickinson, ND, to own and operate two Taco John's restaurants for 17 years. Then they decided to try something different and moved to Helena in 1994. Their daughter, Courtney, was in the eighth grade, and their son, Jordan, was in the fourth grade. They were interested in confirmation programs, so they checked out Our Redeemer's and heard that the program was for seventh and eighth graders. That worked out well for Courtney because it would be her second year. So, they visited the church, where they met Pastor Doug Peterson and learned about the church. Pastor Doug impressed them by remembering all their names, and everyone was so welcoming that they joined and continued being members of Our Redeemer's. Shortly after, they were visited by Ethel Schenck, Doris Bentzen, and Helen Bunkowske, who welcomed them to the church. (Turned out the confirmation program was changing, and longer than two years, but they stuck with it anyway.)

In February 1995, Darbie was offered a part-time job as Our Redeemer's secretary and worked with Kathy Schenck in the office for eight years. They had a great ministry team all around, and it was an exciting time of growth for the church. Darbie then accepted a job with Rick Elhart in Thrivent. After two years, she had an opportunity to work for the Student Assistance Foundation. She loved the job, the people she worked with, and the students she helped to attend college. It was a gratifying job and felt like a ministry for her through all the people they helped. After eleven years, she retired from that job.

Darbie enjoys volunteering at Our Redeemer's and has served in many areas over the years, including church council, various committees such as Fellowship and Church in Society, Boxing Day, Sack Day, raising money and clothing for Guatemala mission trips, Altar Guild and overseeing three teams for counting money for several years. She also participated in charity walks and assisted with the Telecare Ministry led by Verna Strand. She continues to participate in various ministries, including giving people rides to doctor appointments, conducting outreach visits, offering prayers, and simply being there - all behind-the-scenes service with Our Redeemer's. She has served on the preschool board on several occasions and has worked on several preschool silent auction fundraisers. She currently assists in the church office. She helps serve coffee in the entryway before worship, and last winter, she filled in for calling to schedule coffee hosting slots.

When asked about the most exciting thing happening in our church today, she responded that the growth in the congregation is very positive. It's great to see young families and youth in our church services; it's very exciting to have them as part of the church family.

middle school.

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church

Hang Out Night

Wednesday, July 30, 6:00-8:00pm

AND

Wednesday, August 20, 6:00-8:00pm

Dinner, Movie, Games, Crafts at the Church... let Steph know what you want to do, and lets make it happen!

Contact Steph with questions:
Steph@OurRedeemerLives.org

high school.

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church

Hang Out Night

Wednesday, July 23, 6:00-8:00pm

AND

Wednesday, August 13, 6:00-8:00pm

Dinner, Movie, Games, Crafts at the Church... let Steph know what you want to do, and lets make it happen!

Contact Steph with questions:
Steph@OurRedeemerLives.org

Our Redeemer's Support Groups

CAREGIVER'S SUPPORT GROUP

Providing physical and emotional support for a loved one through changes in health can be challenging. A small group of caring individuals who fill this role gathers monthly at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church in the Conference Room. We will meet on Sunday, July 27, at 10:45am, following the worship service. Join us to share stories, challenges, joys, and sorrows. Companionship for your loved one is provided. Jane Peachey and Lori Bigwood-Pecarina lead the group.



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP



The grief group has set dates for July and August. We continue to meet at 10:45am after worship on Sundays. Our next meetings are on July 20 and August 10. If you are grieving, you are welcome to join us. We walk beside each other on our individual grief journeys, knowing that no one can show us the path we need to take. We offer nonjudgmental listening, knowing that each individual grieves in their own way. We laugh, we cry, and we share our experiences and emotions knowing what is said in the group stays in the group. If you have questions or just need to talk feel free to call Lori Bigwood Pecarina or Jane Peachey

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
Jane Peachey 234-567-1461

CREATION CARE CORNER

"God's creation is a wonder to behold. It is a delight to the eye and a reflection of God's majesty and creativity." Psalm 96:12-13 says, "Let all the trees of the forest sing for joy." This verse reminds us of the beauty of nature and the joy it brings. As Christians, we are called to preserve the earth so that God's glory remains visible. We must ask ourselves: Does my interaction with the environment glorify God? Our actions should contribute to the preservation of this beautiful creation so it always bears witness to God's greatness.

This is a challenging question because we live in a world where it is difficult not to impact the environment. Everything from the plastic in which our food is packaged to the CO₂ we exhale contributes to our ecological footprint. Some people go as far as deciding not to have children to protect the earth. But according to Psalm 8, children are a sign of hope and proof that God envisions a future for this world. We don't need to have a neutral ecological footprint, but we must do our best to honor God's creation by living responsibly and sustainably.

The problem arises when we, as Christians, argue that this world will ultimately pass away, so what does it matter? This is a misunderstanding of Psalm 8 and the Bible as a whole. God is not going to destroy this world completely but rather recreate and purify it. We pray in the Lord's Prayer, "Thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." We hope and work for a future where God's will and kingdom are visible here on earth. Christ died and rose again to renew us and this world. Therefore, we must begin now to treat creation with respect and care so that we can preserve the beauty of God's work and honor His name."

Obe Phillips at <https://www.obephillips.com>



Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church

Campers at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

Please keep the youth and adults from Our Redeemer's in your prayers this summer. At camp, all will experience Christ's grace through meaningful relationships, shared adventures, and purposeful service. The theme this summer is **God's Word Comes Near**.

"The Word is near you, on our lips and in your heart." Romans 10:8.

Each day, campers will explore Biblical texts that explore God's word coming near.

- God's word comes near to each of us in many different ways, such as through messengers.
- God's word comes near as God chooses and blesses each one of us.
- God's word comes near when we encounter the other and listen.
- God's word comes near when we share God's story in love and service.
- God's word comes near when we tell others about resurrection life.

Come to The Water Baptism Class at Our Redeemer's



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

TOUCHMARK WORSHIP SERVICE

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church will celebrate worship and communion at Touchmark Retirement Community on July 15 at 10:00am, in the Forum. Sharlene Kolb and Lori Bigwood-Pecarina LMA will lead the service. All are welcome to attend. Touchmark is located at 915 Saddle Drive.

July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
		1 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 10:30am - Knitters for Peace
6 9:30am - Worship + KidTime	7 10:00am - Staff Meeting 6:00pm - Preschool Advisory Board Meeting - Conference Rm	8 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 10:00am - WELCA Board - Small Conference Room 10:30am - Knitters for Peace
Our Redeemer's Youth to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp		
13 7:00am - Dough for Daily Bread Bike Ride , Walk & Run 9:30am - Worship + KidTime 11:00am - Creation Hike - Eddy McClure East 11:00am - Executive Committee - Conference Room	14 10:00am - Staff Meeting 6:00pm - Preschool Board Meeting	15 Voice Articles Due 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 10:00am - Touchmark Worship and Communion 10:30am - Knitters for Peace
Our Redeemer's Youth to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp		
20 9:30am - Worship + KidTime 10:45am - Grief Support Group - Conference Room 10:45am - Stewardship Meeting	21 10:00am - Staff Meeting 10:00am - Fall Bizarre Discussion	22 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 10:30am - Knitters for Peace 6:30pm - Hunger Team - Conference Room
27 9:30am - Worship + KidTime 10:45am - Caregivers Support Group - Conference Room	28 10:00am - Staff Meeting	29 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 10:30am - Knitters for Peace

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:00am - Men's Group - Great Room 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer - Youth Loft	3 9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6	4 Independence Day - office closed	5
9 9:00am - Men's Group - Great Room 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer - Youth Loft 7:00pm - Faith & Justice Action Team - Community Room	10 9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6	11	12
Our Redeemer's Youth to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp			
16 9:00am - Men's Group - Great Room 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer - Youth Loft 1:00pm - Women's Bible Study	17 9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6	18 Adeline Mahlum Memorial Service	19
Our Redeemer's Youth to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp			
23 9:00am - Men's Group - Great Room 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer - Youth Loft 6:00pm - High School Hang Out Night	24 9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6	25	26
30 9:00am - Men's Group - Great Room 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer - Youth Loft 6:00pm - Middle School Hang Out Night	31 9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6		

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Are you interested in formalizing your relationship with Our Redeemer's? New Member Orientations will be offered Sunday, August 24 and Sunday, August 31 right after worship at 10:45am. Come learn more about the ministries of Our Redeemer's. Child care offered. New members will be welcomed during worship on Sunday, September 7.