



July 19 @ 10:30
after worship

12 Months of Birthdays!



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

OUR REDEEMER'S

LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE VOICE

July 2026



Can you feel it?

If you've been in worship since we moved to our summer schedule, I bet you did. You didn't get to sit in your regular seat, you sang some new songs, there were folks you didn't recognize. Our blended summer service has been so full that we had to add extra seating so we can comfortably fit well over 200. Last year's average attendance for our summer services was 167; after six Sundays, we're at an average attendance of 180! And so many visitors... Make sure you welcome those around you who aren't familiar.

Can you feel it?

If you were part of VBS last week, I bet you did. 118 kids and 50+ volunteers made for a building full of joyful energy. As you walked around you heard songs and stories, watched kids do crafts and play games, and enjoyed the most creative snacks ever. The majority of those who attend our annual VBS are not members of Our Redeemer's, and many are unchurched. This year was no different, with only 28% regularly attending Our Redeemer's. That's a lot of outreach into the Helena community, folks. And it only happens because you make it happen.

Can you feel it?

If you were in worship last Sunday, with our VBS band and joyous group of little singers, I bet you did. We've got to get that *Noise = Life* slide back up during the announcements, because the PrayGround was the noisy, full-of-life place to be on Sunday! If you missed the heartfelt sharing of seven of our children and youth at the end of the sermon, check it out here (it starts at about minute 47):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xk24QATwLvI&list=PLFZpwgg4LaV7hQdMwn3RlJJLoVHhOs4Y&index=1>

Not only are our children (and our neighbors' children) having a great experience, but our middle and high school youth are learning how to model Jesus as they serve in the kitchen and shepherd our preschoolers.

Even those who visit us can feel it!

I received a lovely email from a recent visitor from Fleetwood, PA, who joined us on May 31. Holly Wolf (who gave me permission to share this with you) wrote:

Good Morning, Pastor. My husband and I were vacationing in the Helena area, and I attended services at Our Redeemer's. You were at the Synod convention that weekend.

I wanted to share my experience with you.

1. Parking was easy and walking into the sanctuary was comfortable.
2. The service was easy to follow with the screen. Fantastic blend of traditional and contemporary. I've never seen it done as well as you did it.
3. The relaxing vibe was welcoming. I had jeans and a fleece and thought that may be too casual. I fit right in.
4. I loved the use of lay people. What was more interesting is that they gave communion. I'm from Pennsylvania and currently enrolled in the lay minister program. We are not allowed to give communion. It's refreshing to see that lay people can do it. **(continued on page 16)**

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



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

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Ministers: All the People of God

Rev. Trina Johnsten, Lead Pastor

Trina@OurRedeemerLives.Org

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Melani@OurRedeemerLives.Org

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Sarah@OurRedeemerLives.Org

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Steph@OurRedeemerLives.Org

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Carson@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

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Angie Adams, Preschool Teacher

Angie@OurRedeemerLives.Org

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

Voice articles are due on the 15th of each month

Wednesday, July 15 at 5:00 PM

Melani@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:

Rev. Trina Johnsten, Lead Pastor

trina@ourredeemerlives.org

402-984-4306

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Jack Palmer, Member at Large

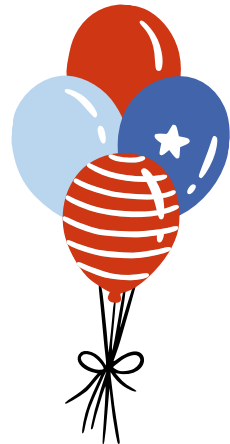
johnpalmerpro@gmail.com

406-460-0133

JULY BIRTHDAYS

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

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Shana DeBoer | 15 Isaac Penner |
| Chris Olson | Harper Smith |
| Dale Reagor | 16 Dee Dee Fischer |
| 2 Randy Coty | 17 Judy Hoover |
| Darbie Hess | Ben Tintinger |
| George Kitts | 19 Bryar Michalson |
| Sharon Langdorf | 20 Rod Olson |
| Skip Verworn | 21 Letty Richardson |
| Shannon Voss | 22 Jan Miller |
| 3 Sandy Merdinger | 23 Owen Russeff |
| 4 Todd Byrne | 24 Thad Michalson |
| Nancy Goughnour | 25 Evalena Hemry |
| 5 Leon Sedlezky | 26 Jenny Harris |
| Haley Moseman | 27 Tim Orthmeyer |
| 6 Amber Jellison | 28 Laila Steinhoff |
| 8 Drake McArthur | 29 John Darlow |
| 9 Tony Stonehouse | 30 Robin Ericksen |
| Rio Willard | Marilyn Murray |
| Marlene Williamson | Burt Ward |
| 10 Frank Gessaman | 31 Brenna Lawton |
| 11 Levi DeLaHunt | Lauren Wetherell |
| 13 Kendall Salo | |
| 14 Alan Baglien | |
| Glenn Kenney | |
| Lynn Ripley | |
| Woody Wilson | |



Happy Anniversary

Celebrate with those married 40 years or more this month!

- 7/7/1979 Bob & Linda Winfield 47 years
- 7/12/1980 Norm & Karen Midtlyng 46 years
- 7/16/1963 Del & Audrey Schubring 63 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 98)
570 B State St
Helena, MT 59601



Our Splash: God's Love is for Everyone Vacation Bible School was a blast! There were 118 preschool and elementary aged children who joined us as well as over 50 willing and devoted middle, high school and adult volunteers. The kids learned that God's love has no limits and no exceptions—and that everyone is invited to be part of God's big story. We enjoyed tie-dying, crafts, outdoor adventures, games, Bible stories, music, snacks and puppet shows. Thank you to all who volunteered their time and talents



this week.
In Christ,
Liz Swenson



Blessing of the Backpacks

Autumn is fast approaching and it will soon be time for students to return to school and fall schedules to resume. Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church will have a Blessing of the Backpacks Milestone Celebration on Sunday, August 23 at the 9:30 AM summer service.



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

Thank you to **all** who donated materials, gift cards and monetary gifts for Vacation Bible School. We are so grateful to each of you for your generosity!

Join us this SUMMER...

June—August—KidTime all Summer

July 24-26 —Our Redeemer's @ FLBC Family Camp Weekend

July 26—Tween Scene Family Lake Day @ Spring Meadow, 3-7pm

July 26-31—Our Redeemer's @ FLBC Regular Camp

August 7—Tween Scene @ ORLC, Ice Cream and Water Day, 5:30-8pm

August 23—Blessing of the Backpacks Service



Contact Liz with questions:
liz@ourredeemerlives.org

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



LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS

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

Our Members

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Joan Anderson | Bries Gauer | Carol Kimble | Julie Mehl |
| James Antosh | George Hafer | Chloe MacIntyre | Carol Olmstead |
| Gordon Blomquist | Greg Johnson | Lorna Meyer | Jim Penner |
| Richard Carey | Noreen Johnson | Dale Mickus | Elmer Strong |
| Roberta Carey | | | |

Our Family and Friends

Emmitt Budy (Dwight Hiesterman)
 Danny McCaughan (nephew of Lori & Dave Swenson)
 Ron Paulson (former member)
 Jacki Riley (sister of Lori Walter)
 Bryan Solomon (nephew of Darbie Hess)
 Phyllis LeDosquet (cousin of Brad Ulgenes)

Our Seminarian

Shawn, Sara, Addie & Kaden Juers

Our Family and Friends Serving in the Military

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



OUR REDEEMER'S SUPPORT GROUPS

CAREGIVER'S SUPPORT GROUP

Caregiver's support group will no longer meet due to decreased attendance secondary to the passing of loved ones. Individual support will be provided. It has been a blessing to walk with you and your families over the past several years.

Lori Bigwood-Pecarina and Jane Peachey



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

The Grief Group will meet at Great Harvest Bread (1133 Helena Ave) on Wednesday, July 8 at 1:30 PM. All who are grieving are welcome to join us, grab a beverage and perhaps a snack, and we will catch up with and support each other. **We will not meet in August.**



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

Continued from page 1

5. Wonderful to see so many families and so many kids/youth involved in the service.
6. The lady who sat next to me, said "I don't think we've met" and introduced herself. What a lovely way to greet a visitor.
7. I watched your services online before I visited, so that made it easier.

Keep up the good work. Thanks for welcoming me. Holly Wolf

Wow! Well done, people of Our Redeemer's! This was a discerning visitor who provided very detailed feedback. She identified some of the things that make us unique, and she noticed that the Holy Spirit is hard at work among us, as we worship, include others, stretch and grow, and live out what it is to be God's people in this place.

May your summer continue to be a time of rest and recreation. And let's continue to welcome those who join us, hoping for a glimpse of God at work...*through you.*

Pastor Trina



NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Are you interested in formalizing your relationship with Our Redeemer's? New Member Orientations will be offered **July 12, July 26** and **August 16** right after worship at 10:45 AM in the Community Room. Come learn more about the ministries of Our Redeemer's. Childcare offered. Please let us know you're coming by reaching out to Melani Cobb at melani@ourredeemerlives.org or 406-442-7842. New members will be welcomed during worship on Sunday, August 23, with a Pie Social to follow.



GIVING ENVELOPES DELAY

If you use the monthly giving envelopes from Cathedral Letter Concepts, they have notified us that in an effort to catch up in their mailing process they **will not be producing July 2026 envelopes**. You may use an unused envelope from another month, one of the envelopes in the pews at church, or a regular envelope from home instead. And if you're not using these monthly envelopes any longer, please let Melani, our Office Manager, know at 406-442-7842 or melani@ourredeemerlives.org and we will discontinue sending them.

TWEEN SCENE
SUMMER EDITION
FOR TWEENS ENTERING 4TH-6TH GRADE

COSMIC JUMP!
at **FLYING GIANT** Trampoline Park
Jumping and climbing under black lights, cosmic lights and music!
★ **FRIDAY, JUNE 19** ★
8:00PM - 10:00PM
★ We will cover your admission costs!
★ Bring jump socks if you have them
★ Money for snacks
NEEDED:
• An Our Redeemers permission slip signed by a parent
☐ A current waiver in place at Flying Giant (these can be completed online at Flying Giant website.)

FAMILY Lake Day!
BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!
📅 **SUNDAY, JULY 26TH**
🕒 **3:00 - 7:00PM**
📍 **WHERE?** The Pavillion at Spring Meadow Lake
BRING:
• Kayaks, canoes, fishing poles
• Swimsuits and towels
• Life jackets (if you will be kayaking or canoeing)
• Pizza and drinks will be provided. Please bring a fun snack to share!

PIZZA, ICE CREAM & WATER GAMES!
FRIDAY, AUGUST 7TH
WHERE? Our Redeemers
TIME: 5:30 - 8:00PM
• Ron and Kathy will bring their pizza oven. You can **make your own pizza** and ice cream sundae!
BRING: Clothes that can get wet, a towel, a favorite game

ALL EVENTS ARE FOR TWEENS ENTERING 4TH - 6TH GRADE ❤️ **WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!**

We hope all Tweens will join us this summer for these fun events.

Know before you go...

- All kids need to have an Our Redeemer's permission slip on file in order to participate. Permission slips are available in the office ahead of time or you can fill one out at the event.
- Family Lake Day is designed for the entire family, a parent *must* be in attendance during this event since there will be no lifeguard on duty. We will plan for your whole family to come and enjoy an afternoon at the lake. Siblings of all ages are welcome.
- These events are designed for kids who are incoming 4th grade-6th grade.

Email Liz, Liz@OurRedeemerlives.org with any questions!

SUMMER Youth Activities AT THE CHURCH!

FOOD. FRIENDS. FAITH. FUN.

MEET AT **BIG DIPPER ICE CREAM**
Downtown

7PM JUNE 24

FOR BOTH MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL

| MIDDLE SCHOOL — GRADES 6-8 — | HIGH SCHOOL — GRADES 9-12 — |
|--|--|
|  JULY 22 AUG 19 |  JULY 8 AUG 5 |
|  6-8PM AT THE CHURCH <i>Dinner & Activities!</i> |  6-8PM AT THE CHURCH <i>Dinner & Activities!</i> |

CAMPERS WILL BE ATTENDING FLBC ALL SUMMER LONG, please hold them in prayer.

COME HANG OUT, GROW IN FAITH, AND MAKE GREAT MEMORIES THIS SUMMER!

CONTACT: STEPH AT STEPH@OURREDEEMERLIVES.ORG



Summer Singers - ALL ARE WELCOME!

Do you like to sing? Have you considered joining the choir, but weren't quite sure? Now is your chance to try it out! Join the Summer Singers for a rehearsal or two if your schedule allows, and sing a beautiful yet simple anthem for worship on July 19! Rehearsal in the sanctuary on 7/8 and 7/15 at 5:30 PM. Please don't hesitate to contact Nicole at ncevans300796@gmail.com or (406)208-7853 with any questions! There is a place in our choir for every voice!



Scam Email and Text Alert

Once again, emails and texts are being sent from someone representing themselves as Pastor Trina or a member of the Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church staff. Religious organizations have become easy targets for these scams, which exploit people's generosity.

Just a reminder, no one from Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church will ever email or text you asking you to send money or gift cards, perform "some task" for them, click a link to learn more, or include a vague message asking for a "favor" or "request" and for you to respond immediately. You can hover your cursor over the sender's email address (without clicking it) to view the actual sender's address or call the church office if you are in doubt (406-442-7842).

Valid email addresses for all church staff members include their first name and @ourredeemerlives.org. The scammers have often used gmail.com or icloud.com email addresses in their emails.

Please delete these emails and don't reply or click on any links in the message.

For more information from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on these types of emails, please check out the links below. (You may have to copy them and then paste them into your browser.)

[How to Recognize and Avoid Phishing Scams - FCC](#)
[How To Recognize and Avoid Phishing Scams | Consumer Advice](#)



[Gift Card Scams - FCC](#)
[No, that's not your boss asking you to buy gift cards | Consumer Advice](#)



Forward In Faith Team

Thank you to the Forward in Faith team (Trudy Burke, Attila Fohnagy, Shauna Helfert and Craig Linke), who have completed their work on our behalf. They were tasked with reviewing and making strategic recommendations to the Council on church processes and ensuring their alignment with our mission as a congregation and operational best practices. Their conclusions were:

- **Feedback Addressed:** The Forward in Faith Team addressed and acted upon as many congregational concerns as possible.
- **Separation Status:** Staff interviews and work by the Forward in Faith Team confirmed Pastor Adam and the church separated mutually. The Bishop of the Montana Synod was involved throughout the separation process. No disciplinary action was taken, and mediation was offered. Based on our review, the pastoral call did not appear to be a good fit, consistent with the observations shared in Pastor Adam's letter to the congregation dated January 29, 2026.
- **Church Council:** The Forward in Faith Team found that the Our Redeemer's Council protects community trust through a model of Appropriate Transparency, rejecting any practice of secrecy.
- **Constitution Review Committee:** The Forward in Faith Team advises the Council to establish a constitutional review committee.
- **Call Committee and Church Leadership:** The call committee and church leadership acted in good faith during Pastor Adam's tenure. The Forward in Faith Team affirms the importance that church leadership continue moving forward with transparency and accountability. It also affirms the congregation's support of Pastor Trina Johnsten as we faithfully pursue God's direction for our congregation.

Next Steps: The Forward in Faith Team urges the council, committees, pastors, and staff to execute the recommended actions in the Forward in Faith report. A link to that document can be found here: <https://ourredeemerlives.org/forward-in-faith/>

Or use this QR Code

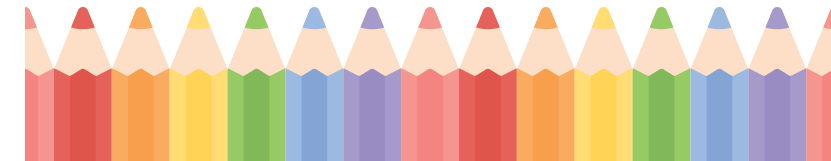


PRESCHOOL NEWS

We still have openings in our afternoon Bridge Class (ages 3/4) for the upcoming 2026–2027 school year! Secure your child's spot today by visiting our website under the Preschool tab and selecting Upcoming School Year 2026–2027.



We also have a few spaces remaining in our Ocean Explorers Summer Camp, taking place August 10–14 from 8:00 AM–12:00 PM. Campers will enjoy a fun-filled week of ocean-themed activities, including a walk to the neighborhood park, a bike day, and a water day. Summer camp registration can also be found on the church webpage. We would love to have your little explorer join us!



PERPETUAL FUND TAKING APPLICATIONS

The Perpetual Fund Committee is pleased to announce that grants and scholarships are available for qualified applicants and projects from the Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church Perpetual Fund and Seminary Scholarship Fund for 2026.

Awards from the Perpetual Funds are intended to enhance certain Our Redeemer's missions and ministries which have not received funding from the general or designated Church giving, such as:

- Missions of the ELCA at home and abroad, including professional leadership, educational ministries, global missions, and social ministries.
- Outreach into the community, including grants to campus ministries, social service, agencies, and special programs in our parish area who are in spiritual and or economical need.
- Scholarships or grants to members of ORLC for church-related education or church related leadership, conferences or training which enables members of this congregation to grow in Christian faith and service to God's people.

Seminary scholarship funds are available to Montana Lutheran students in good standing from local area sources who are enrolled in or attending an ELCA Seminary.

Call Lori Chase at 410-271-5841 for additional information or clarification. Electronic applications are available for Perpetual Fund requests.

Creation Hikes

Creation Hikes are a fellowship opportunity to join one another in community while enjoying God's creation. There are three more hikes being offered this summer: July 19, August 2, and September 6. Gretchen and Blair Krumm will lead the hikes, which depart from the south church parking lot at 11:00 AM. These moderate hikes are open to all ages.

JULY 19: TOUR DE RODNEY RIDGE

A familiar local ridge, this area has multiple options for hiking a loop up, along, and around Rodney Ridge. We will determine the route based on group preference, but total distance can range from about 2.5 miles to 4 miles. Remember to bring a lunch and water you can carry with you on the hike. We can sit on the grass in the meadow of the ridge and have lunch together.

AUGUST 2: TROUT CREEK CANYON

This is an out and back hike that is relatively flat and offers impressive views of limestone cliffs rising 1,000 feet above the narrow creek bed and trail. The group can decide how long to make this hike. The full length out and back is 6 miles roundtrip but can obviously be made shorter. The trail leaves from Vigilante Campground where there are vault toilets available. Vigilante Campground is located 6.7 miles past the town of York. Remember to bring a lunch and water. We will eat lunch at the cars before hiking. Bear spray is recommended for your safety. We will meet in the Great Room at church at 11 AM to arrange carpooling before departure.

SEPTEMBER 6: PRICKLY PEAR PARK

Prickly Pear Park is located at the newly remediated East Helena smelter. It is an easy, level 1.4 mile loop. No dogs are allowed in the park to protect riparian areas and birds. We will meet in the Great Room at church at 11 AM to arrange carpooling before departure.



WELCA

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The summer months are ahead of us and things have slowed down a little bit for WELCA. Kay Patterson has resigned this summer from our board and Ingrid Childress has taken her place on the board. Please take the time to thank Kay for her years of service and welcome Ingrid to the Board of Directors.

We hosted a funeral reception in June for the family of Rick Elhart. Thank you to everyone who assisted working that day and providing food for this amazing ministry of WELCA.

Just a few updates on a few dates coming up: August 6 at 10:00 AM we will hold our first bazaar meeting for the fall at the church in the Great Room. Mark your calendars because I want as many people there as possible to talk about how we want to go about designing our fall bazaar for 2026. Also, we have changed our September Women's Retreat dates and we have moved it up a week in the month of September to Friday, September 18, 6:00-9:00 PM and Saturday, September 19, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM. Mark your calendars with this date change please. If you'd like to serve on the committee to plan the retreat, we're still looking for a few people to assist us. Please give Charlene Mayala a call at 406-465-0956.

Thank you, WELCA Board of Directors



Please join us after worship on July 19 to celebrate the birthday of everyone in our congregation. There will be 12 decorated tables set up with a birthday cake, one for each month of the year. You will find your birthday month table and celebrate with those in the congregation who share your birthday. Prizes will be presented to the person who is the oldest, the one who is the youngest, and the individual with the birthday closest to July 19. There will be a sign-up poster in the entryway requesting a birthday cake for each month of the year. The cake may be one of your specialties or purchased.

Thank you for your participation in a new fun event for coffee hour!

Please let Sharon Langdorf or Janet Erickson know if you can help baking a cake or setting up and decorating the tables.

CATCHING UP WITH COUNCIL

Council Highlights June 16, 2026

Presentation of 2026-27 Preschool Budget

Kristen Bonnacarrere, Our Redeemer's Preschool Director, presented the 2026-27 preschool budget and updated Council on summer camps, enrollment projections for Fall, and a very successful Open House they hosted on June 14. Council approved the 2026-27 budget and thanked Kristen for her good work.

Introduction of New Staff

Carson Yahvah, Interim Director of Worship and Music, was present. He introduced himself and explained his job description and duties. Carson works 15 hours a week for Our Redeemer's and is focused on the technology used in worship (sound system, slides, livestream) and coordinating the many musicians that regularly play for us. He is also helping with the VBS band.

May 2026 Financial Reports and Recommendations

General receipts for the Ministry Fund totaled \$43,898. Building Fund donations totaled \$7,326. It was noted that we paid \$22,687 in property taxes in May, which significantly increased our expenses for the month.

Ministry Team and Committee Reports

Pastor Trina reported that our two new staff, Carson Yahvah and Melani Cobb, are doing very well in their new roles, and are wonderful additions to the Our Redeemer's staff. VBS is the focus of all staff right now, as they prepare for that big event next week. Pastor received a glowing review from a recent visitor from Pennsylvania who had a very positive experience worshipping with us on May 31. She will be sharing it in the July *Voice*.

Executive Session

The Council went into Executive Session to receive and discuss the report produced by the Forward in Faith Team. Council thanks Trudy Burke, Attila Fohnagy, Shauna Helfert and Craig Linke for the time they spent on this project and the thoughtful document they produced. The Conclusions section will be in the Thursday, June 18 e-news and July *Voice*, with a link to the entire document.

The full Council will not meet in July. The Executive Committee will meet to make necessary financial decisions for that month and discuss any time-sensitive items that come up. The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, August 18 at 5:30 PM.

Mary Kay Linke, Secretary

HUNGER TEAM NEWS

Kid Packs

Thank you to all the faithful, wonderful volunteers who help out with the assembling of Kid Packs from October-April. Volunteers make this program work, and you are absolutely the best! Your time, energy, spunk, and willingness to pitch in wherever needed is priceless. For the 2025-26 school year 21,760 bags were filled. That means that 2,688 crates were packed, and 483 volunteers gave 494.58 hours of service. This is a huge blessing. Thank you for choosing to make a difference in the life of many children in our great community.

2026 Milk Campaign

Captain Milkificent will appear again in September, ready to launch our annual milk campaign for the Kid Packs program at Helena Food Share. Stay on the lookout for the Captain, along with Calcium and a few other sidekicks to help us in providing necessary vitamins and minerals for hungry children.

Our church partners (New Life Lutheran, St. John's Lutheran, First Presbyterian, St. Peter's Episcopal, and Plymouth Congregational) will assist in this community-wide endeavor of awareness as we work toward our goal of \$25,000.

Small milk bottles for collecting change were distributed to children and youth back in April. Others will be available when we launch the campaign on September 6. Stay tuned!



Community Garden

Thank you to everyone who assisted us in planting the community garden. That includes students from Carroll College, Scouts, and a host of folks who showed up for either the church-wide garden party or at other times. We've already delivered hefty amounts of rhubarb and radishes to Helena Food Share, with more healthy produce on the way at all times.

We always welcome help in the garden, with planting, weeding, and harvesting of the Helena Food Share plots. Someone will be in the garden to direct work times on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM and Saturday mornings at 9:00 AM. We could also use corrugated cardboard for placing in the walkways (our attempt at dissuading the bindweed from taking over). For more complete directions, please contact Elaine Ulgenes (406-399-0717) or Karen Nelson (406-461-6234).

Tomato Fest

Save this date: Sunday, September 20, 4:00-7:00 PM for the Tomato Fest! Plan on tasting more varieties of tomatoes than you ever knew were possible, while you help to support our community garden and our partnership with Carroll College students who assist with the garden each spring. This year's event will also include music and information booths about other food-sustaining programs in Helena. Ticket prices are \$20 for adults and \$5 for kids under 18. More details will follow at a later date.



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|---|---|-----------|---|
| | | | 1 9:00am - Men's Group-Great Rm 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer Youth Loft | 2 9:30am - Sew in Love - CR5-6 11:00am - Looking Ahead - Conf. Rm | 3 | 4  |
| 5 9:30am - Worship | 6 | 7 9:00am - Staff Meeting 9:00am - Quilting for LWR - CR5-6 10:30am - Knitters for Peace - | 8 9:00am - Men's Group-Great Rm 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer Youth Loft 1:30pm - Grief Group @ Great Harvest 6:00pm - High School Youth - Dinner & Activities | 9 9:30am - Sew in Love - CR5-6 11:00am - Looking Ahead - Conf. Rm | 10 | 11 |
| 12 9:30am - Worship + Kid Time 10:45am - New Member Orientation Conf. Rm | 13 6:00pm - Preschool Advisory Board Mtg - Conf. Rm | 14 9:00am - Staff Meeting 9:00am - Quilting for LWR - CR5-6 10:30am - Knitters for Peace | 15 <i>VOICE ARTICLES DUE!</i> 9:00am - Men's Group-Great Rm 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer Youth Loft 1:00pm - Circle Bible Study | 16 9:30am - Sew in Love - CR5-6 11:00am - Looking Ahead - Conf. Rm | 17 | 18 |
| 19 9:30am - Worship + Kid Time 10:30am - Birthday Cake Fellowship 11:00am - Creation Hike 11:15am - Executive Council Mtg Conference Room | 20 | 21 9:00am - Staff Meeting 9:00am - Quilting for LWR - CR5-6 10:00am - Touchmark Service 10:30am - Knitters for Peace | 22 9:00am - Men's Group-Great Rm 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer Youth Loft 6:00pm - Middle School Youth - Dinner & Activities | 23 9:30am - Sew in Love - CR5-6 11:00am - Looking Ahead - Conf. Rm | 24 | 25 |
| 26 9:30am - Worship + Kid Time 10:45am - New Member Orientation Conf. Rm 3:00pm - Tween Scene - Family Lake Day@ Spring Meadows | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |
| Our Redeemer's Children and Youth at FLBC | | | | | | |
| | | 9:00am - Staff Meeting 9:00am - Quilting for LWR - CR5-6 10:30am - Knitters for Peace 6:30pm - Hunger Team | 9:00am - Men's Group-Great Rm 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer Youth Loft | 9:30am - Sew in Love - CR5-6 | | |