

# OUR REDEEMER'S

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### THE VOICE

June 2026



#### **Welcome to Carson Yahvah, Interim Director of Worship and Music**

You'll recognize Carson because he's played his cello for us so much recently, and now we welcome him formally to the Our Redeemer's staff. Carson is a Helena native and has been a professional musician and music educator in the area since completing his B.A. of Music Education at MSU Bozeman in 2012. Carson is a long-time member of the cello section in the Helena Symphony Orchestra; he also enjoys collaborating with other local musicians in a wide range of styles. He has taught general music, choir, and orchestra in schools and has offered private lessons for piano and stringed instruments. Carson also enjoys keeping active with skiing, swimming, hiking, and mountain biking, especially with his wife, Andrea, and daughter, Julia.

Carson will focus on the technical needs of our services (sound, slides, livestream), be responsible for coordinating the many musicians who regularly play for us (both members and outside musicians), and recruiting and training volunteers to assist in worship (greeters, ushers, readers, communion assistants). He will be part of the group that leads music for VBS this summer, and will help as needed with other musical offerings. This is a very different focus than in the past; more coordinating the many moving parts, and less up front leading and performing, although we will definitely get to hear that beautiful cello from time to time!



#### **Welcome to Melani Cobb, Office and Facility Manager**

Joyful Greetings!  
My name is Melani Cobb, and I look forward to serving alongside you at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church.

My family relocated to Helena in August 2025 from Montesano, Washington, so my husband Patrick could begin serving as pastor of Grace Community Fellowship. He also serves in the Army Reserve, after a career as an active-duty Army chaplain. We have three children: our oldest, Soren, attends college in Arizona; our daughter, Addison, will graduate from Helena high school this June; and Carson will be a junior there this fall.

My professional background began at Mo-Ranch, a Presbyterian retreat and conference center in Texas, where I served in several roles, including Director of Summer Camps. I have also worked in higher education at UT-Austin, UT-San Antonio, and UA-Birmingham in various campus programs and offices. I provided receptionist/office support in the equivalent of our synod office during our time in San Antonio, and for the past five years functioned as the audio-visual technician and youth group leader at our former congregation in Washington.

In my free time, I enjoy being outdoors, staying active and spending time with my family.



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

# SEMINARIAN GRADUATE

Congratulations to our seminarian, Shawn Juers, who graduated from Wartburg Theological Seminary on Sunday, May 17. Well done, Shawn, and well done people of Our Redeemer's who have supported him financially and spiritually through these four years. Shawn is hoping to get a call to a congregation in northcentral Minnesota, near his wife's family, and had his first interview at the end of May. Notes of congratulations and encouragement may be sent to Shawn Juers, 1839 Denver Dr, #3A, Dubuque, IA 52003.



Graduation Day!

Dr. Helen Chukka was Shawn's academic advisor.



Shawn, Addie (15), Kaden (11), Sara

# THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



## *Violet Lawton*

Violet is the daughter of Kim Lawton. She is graduating from East Helena High School.

Violet is valedictorian at EHHS and has been in the National Honors Society for two years. She lettered in swimming for three years. She has also been apart of Band, Speech and Debate, and E-Sports.

Violet is planning to attend the U of M and eventually become an English teacher.



## *Kaela Burke*

Kaela is the daughter of Mike and Trudy Burke. She is graduating from Capital High School.

Kaela has been a part of the Drama club, achieving a cord, stole and tassel. She has also achieved an advanced cord in Art.

Kaela has helped in many ways around church, including VBS, in the nursery, and singing in front of the congregation.

Kaela will be attending Helena College for cosmetology to become a hairdresser.



## VBS Opening Worship All Are Welcome!!

We hope you will join us for opening worship each day during Vacation Bible School on **June 22-25, 9:10AM-9:40AM**. We will sing, listen to a short message from our puppet friends and participate in a camp style worship. All are welcome and encouraged to join—see you there!



## Join us this SUMMER...

June—August—KidTime during worship all Summer



June 9-10—5th-8th Grade Lock-In

June 19—Tween Scene @ Flying Giant, 8-10pm

June 22-25—Vacation Bible School, 9:00am—noon.

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

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

August 23—Blessing of the Backpacks Service

## Vacation Bible School 2026

Theme: SPLASH: God's Love is for Everyone!



Dates: June 22-26, 2026

Hours: 9AM—Noon, Monday thru Thursday

**REGISTER TODAY:** Follow the link below or use the QR code to register your child for our upcoming VBS, we can't wait to see you there! Campers register here:

<https://forms.gle/isJHH5RM6w4Q9pug7>



## Volunteers

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

- ◆ Craft Leaders/Assistants
- ◆ Classroom Leaders /Assistants
- ◆ Games
- ◆ Kitchen
- ◆ Storyteller/Puppeteers
- ◆ Set-up and Clean-up



Volunteers Register Here:

<https://forms.gle/ehZAcZCQVYESUURU6>



Contact Liz with questions:  
[liz@ourredeemerlives.org](mailto:liz@ourredeemerlives.org)



# TWEEN SCENE

## SUMMER EDITION

FOR TWEENS  
ENTERING  
4<sup>TH</sup>-6<sup>TH</sup>  
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 26<sup>TH</sup>**  
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 7<sup>TH</sup>**

**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 4<sup>TH</sup> - 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

♥ WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!

We hope all Tween's will join us this summer for these fun events.

Know before you go...

- ⇒ All kids participating 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](mailto: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 —



**JULY 22**  
**AUG 19**



**6-8PM**

AT THE CHURCH

*Dinner & Activities!*

**HIGH SCHOOL**  
— GRADES 9-12 —



**JULY 8**  
**AUG 5**



**6-8PM**

AT THE CHURCH

*Dinner & Activities!*



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](mailto:STEPH@OURREDEEMERLIVES.ORG)

6-8TH  
GRADE

# LOCK IN!

FRIENDS ARE WELCOME!



TUESDAY, JUNE 9  
6:00 PM  
FRIDAY, JUNE 10  
9:00 AM



OUR REDEEMER'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH



QUESTIONS?

(406) 579-8897

[steph@ourredeemerlives.org](mailto:steph@ourredeemerlives.org)

## HERE IS WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE LOCK IN...

### TUESDAY

6:00 PM - Group Games/  
Get to know you games



7:00 PM - Dinner, with a twist



8:00/8:30 PM - Group activities



11:00 PM - Fire, Smores, Devotional



12:00 AM - Movie to winddown  
and to sleep  
(Everyone will be  
sleeping in the loft  
together)



### WEDNESDAY

7:30 AM - Breakfast and devotional



8:30 AM - Clean up



9:00 AM - Head on home to  
sleep some more 😊

FUN.  
FAITH.  
FRIENDS.  
MEMORIES!



AS THE TIME DRAWS CLOSER, STEPH WILL EMAIL:

✔ WHAT TO BRING LIST    ✔ FORMS TO SIGN    ✔ WHAT TO EXPECT

## PARENTS - WE NEED YOUR HELP!

PARENTS ARE ENCOURAGED  
TO STAY AND HELP IF YOU CAN!

You can help with:

- ★ Dinner prep
- ★ Games & activities
- ★ Breakfast
- ★ General support



YOUR HELP MAKES THIS  
EVENT POSSIBLE!

Thank you for being a part of  
making the Lock In an awesome  
experience for our students!



LET'S HAVE AN AWESOME NIGHT TOGETHER!  
WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!

# Stitching a Legacy: The Heartbeat of Knitters for Peace

Since 2008, a dedicated group has been proving that a few balls of yarn and some steady needles can truly change the world. Founded by Cindy Holcomb and others, Knitters for Peace began with a simple mission: to keep hands moving and hearts open. While their gathering location has shifted over the years, you can currently find them sharing patterns and stories at Pastimes on Saturdays, as well as gathering at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church on Tuesdays.

## **A Global and Local Reach**

From the local community to international borders, this group has "clothed their families several times over" and is now dressing the world. Their impressive resume of service includes:

- **International Care:** Crafting items for Lutheran World Relief baby care kits and over 200 hats for the Tibetan Children's Education Foundation.
- **Regional Support:** Sending care packages for children and infants in Hardin, Montana, and specialized items to the psych unit at Harborview Hospital in Seattle.
- **Serving Those Who Serve:** Knitting wool beanies designed specifically for the National Guard to wear under their helmets.
- **Community Warmth:** Providing items for the St. Helena Cathedral Giving Tree, the VA Hospital, "Melt the Ice" hats, and heartfelt scarves for foster care graduates.

## **More Than Just a Hobby**

For the members, the group provides as much peace to the knitters as it does to the recipients. Member Linda Nelson shares that "knitting is something that helps me slow down," while Peggy Collins points out that the practice is even proven to lower blood pressure. It's a space to encourage one another, learn new techniques, and find a sense of peace in a busy world.



## **Passing on the Craft**

Knitters for Peace is also invested in the next generation. They share their expertise with 4th and 5th graders at Broadwater Elementary School and previously mentored students at Capital High School, ensuring the art of knitting continues to thrive.

## **How You Can Help**

The group is always looking for new members to join their circle. If you aren't a knitter but want to support their mission, they gratefully accept donations of Superwash wool yarn, natural wool yarn, and cotton yarn.



Whether you have a local need that requires some knitted warmth or you're looking for a place to sit, stitch, and slow down, Knitters for Peace welcomes you with open arms.

You can catch up with the Knitters for Peace at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church on Tuesdays from 10:30-AM-12:00 PM at 3580 N Benton Ave, Helena and on Saturdays from 12:00-2:00 PM at Pastimes at 1410 Birch St, Helena.



# Confirmation

These confirmands affirmed the promises made at their baptism and committed to follow Jesus with faith and courage.



Eileen Anne McLane.  
Daughter of Ryan and Abigail McLane.



Brinley Aline Mingay.  
Daughter of Clint and Amy Mingay

## CREATION HIKES

Creation Hikes are a fellowship opportunity to join one another in community while enjoying God's creation. There will be four hikes offered this summer: June 14, July 19, August 2, and September 6. Gretchen and Blair Krumm will lead the hikes, which depart from the Church parking lot at 11:00am. These moderate hikes are open to all ages.

### **JUNE 14: SKIDWAY WILDFLOWER HIKE**

Located on US Highway 12 in the Deep Creek Canyon, about 21 miles east of Townsend, this hike offers two options. You can choose a one-mile hike up to a meadow that is usually adorned with a stunning array of wildflowers. From there, you can either head back to your car for a 2-mile out and back trip or continue on a loop trail that is about 4-4.5 miles round trip back to the campground. Dogs are welcome to join. We'll meet in the south church parking lot at 11am for carpooling and departure. Remember to bring lunch and water. We will enjoy lunch together at the trailhead before hiking. Bear spray is recommended for your safety.

### **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. We will depart from the south church parking lot at 11:00am.

### **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 11am 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 11am to arrange carpooling before departure.

## HUNGER TEAM NEWS

### **Kendra Wilde Hunger and Shelter Endowment Fund**

The second quarter dividends of \$351.40 were donated to Amy's Mess, an organization that provides temporary assistance to school-aged children and their parents. This group works in coordination with the homeless coordinator for the school district. We look forward to having Amy Adams, Founder and President of this organization, speak with to the congregation sometime in the near future.

### **2026 Milk Campaign**

This year's milk campaign will take place in September. Children and youth received small milk bottles at the end of April so they could collect their donations throughout the summer. We look forward to working with our community partners this year: New Life Lutheran, St. John's Lutheran, First Presbyterian, Plymouth Congregational, and St. Peter's Episcopal.

Captain Milkificent will appear once again, to encourage us in the campaign. Thanks to the Montana Synod Hunger Team, Our Redeemer's has already been awarded \$2000 as seed money for our annual campaign. Look for more information about how to build "Strong Bones, Strong Brains" as we get closer to launching this campaign.

### **Community Garden**

Thanks to the assistance of Carroll College students, Scouts, garden renters, and members of the congregation, the Helena Food Share plot has been planted. It will need constant oversight during the summer. We are always in need of those who are willing to weed and harvest so that the bounty of this garden can reach its full potential to serve hungry neighbors in our community. Please contact Elaine Ulgenes (elaineulge@yahoo.com, 406-399-0717) for more information.

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## PRESCHOOL NEWS

As we wrap up another wonderful school year, we are so thankful for all of the memories made this past month. On May 21, we celebrated our preschool graduates during a very special graduation ceremony and loved recognizing how much each child has grown throughout the year.

Now, we are looking ahead to an exciting June! On June 14 from 3–5 PM, we will be hosting an Open House/Playdate on the new playground. We hope to see both new and returning families as we connect with members of our community and welcome new faces to our preschool family.

We are also excited to share that our first summer camp session, Little Gardeners (June 15–19), is currently FULL! We cannot wait for a fun week of learning, exploring, and growing together.



# June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
	<b>1</b> 10:00am - Staff Meeting	<b>2</b> 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 10:00am - WELCA Board 10:30am - Knitters for Peace—Conf. Rm
<b>7</b> 9:30am - Worship + KidTime	<b>8</b> 10:00am - Staff Meeting 6:00pm - Preschool Advisory Board Meeting - Conference Rm	<b>9</b> 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief - CR#5-6 10:30am - Knitters for Peace  <div style="background-color: #cccccc; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">5-8 grade Lock In at the Church</div>
<b>14</b> 9:30am - Worship + KidTime 10:45am - Executive Council Meeting - Conference Room 3:00pm - Preschool Open House 11:00am– Creation Hike	<b>15</b> <div style="background-color: #ffffcc; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Voice Articles Due</div> 10:00am - Staff Meeting	<b>16</b> 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 <b>10:00am - Touchmark Worship and Communion</b> 10:30am - Knitters for Peace 5:30pm - Council Meeting
<b>21</b> 9:30am - Worship + KidTime	<b>22</b> 10:00am - Staff Meeting  <div style="background-color: #cccccc; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Vacation Bible School - Vacation Bible School</div>	<b>23</b> 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 10:30am - Knitters for Peace 6:30pm - Hunger Team
<b>28</b> 9:30am - Worship + KidTime	<b>29</b> 10:00am - Staff Meeting	<b>30</b> 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 10:30am - Knitters for Peace

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3</b> 9:00am - Men's Group - Great Room 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer - Youth Loft	<b>4</b> 9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6 11:00am - Looking Ahead - Conference Room 12:00pm- Faith and Justice in Action- CR5	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>10</b> 9:00am - Men's Group - Great Room 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer - Youth Loft	<b>11</b> 9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6 11:00am - Looking Ahead - Conference Room	<b>12</b> 10:00am- Rick Elhart Memorial Service	<b>13</b>
5-8 grade Lock In at the Church			
<b>17</b> 9:00am - Men's Group - Great Room 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer - Youth Loft 1:00pm - Circle Bible Study	<b>18</b> 9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6 11:00am - Looking Ahead - Conference Room 5:30pm - VBS Orientation	<b>19</b> 8:00pm- Tween Scene, Cosmic Jump	<b>20</b>
<b>24</b> 9:00am - Men's Group - Great Room 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer - Youth Loft 7:00pm- 6-12 grade, Big Dipper Ice Cream	<b>25</b> 9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6 11:00am - Looking Ahead - Conference Room	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
ol - Vacation Bible School			

# CATCHING UP WITH COUNCIL

## Highlights from January–May, 2026

### Council Highlights January 13, 2026

#### Audit Committee Report on 2024 Calendar Year

The Council gratefully received the report from the Audit Committee (Mike Burke, Jan Martin, Paula Marble, Herb Kulow), which will be in the 2025 Annual Report. Council will provide the Audit Committee with a response regarding how their findings will be addressed.

#### December 2025 Financial Reports and Recommendations

General receipts for the Ministry Fund totaled \$60,867. Building Fund donations totaled \$6,581. The council moved to give an end-of-year gift to the Montana Synod of \$6,000. In the 2026 budget, the congregation approved an annual gift of \$10,000 to the Montana Synod.

#### Ministry Team and Committee Reports

\*Pastor Trina reported new programming for grades 4 and 5 has begun on Sunday during the education hour. Called Tween Scene, it has started with good attendance and has brought in some kids who aren't regularly attending Sunday School. Christmas Eve attendance consisted of over 600 people between the four services.

\*The Long-Range Planning Committee will present a rough draft of their strategic plan between services on January 25 and February 1.

\*The Creation Care/Solar and More Team reports that Bozeman Green Build will start work soon on the solar panel installation. A request was made for the first payment of \$79,801.

\*The Faith and Justice in Action Team had some member participate in the recent vigil at the Federal Courthouse after the murder of Renee Good.

#### Unfinished Business

\*The Personnel Policy Manual has been updated and approved by the Council.

\*We are still seeking someone to serve as the Worship Coordinator. Pastor Trina will meet with a new candidate on Friday.

\*The Nominating Committee, chaired by Jennifer Colegrove, has completed the ballot for the February Annual Meeting. Members have been found for six open Council positions, three voting delegates for the Synod Assembly, FLBC representatives, and one spot on the Memorial Fund Committee.

#### New Business

\*Annual Congregational Meeting planning (February 8: 9:30 worship/10:45 potluck and meeting.

\*Council Member Orientation on either March 14 or 28)

Linda Nelson, Secretary

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### Council Highlights February 17, 2026

#### Welcome of New Council Members

Welcome and introductions of new Council members: Jan Martin, Darbie Hess, Sawyer Linke, Sharon Langdorf, Trudy Burke, Tracey Tintinger (one year appointment).

#### January 2026 Financial Reports and Recommendations

General receipts for the Ministry Fund totaled \$57,736. Building Fund donations totaled \$14,803. The balance in the Building Fund reserves is \$66,907 (6 months' worth of mortgage payments).

## **Ministry Team and Committee Reports**

\*Pastor Trina reported that due to staffing shortages resulting from the departure of Pastor Adam Barnhart and Lori Walter (Office Manager), extra help will be needed. There will be increased responsibility for her; Jane Peachey will be offered more hours in her role as Care Coordinator; Dennis Trotter will be brought on to assist with technology, facilities, and continue in his role with Confirmation.

\*Many volunteers have stepped forward to help. Kathy Olson and Ingrid Childress will staff the office Monday-Thursday mornings. Sara Dorrington will help with slides, e-news, bulletin, Voice. Pastor Brad Ulgenes, Jan Martin and Jeff Martin have offered extra help with worship.

\*Pastor Adam's Mutual Ministry team and members of the Executive Committee of the Council will meet to review Pastor Adam's short tenure and possible lessons learned as we move forward.

\*Pastor Adam and Lori Walter were offered exit interviews as part of their departure; both declined.

\*The Youth Group did a day-long event (8AM-10PM!) at the church on February 14, which was a big success. This was in place of the annual retreat to FLBC which was cancelled due to low interest.

\*It is becoming increasingly clear that the Worship Coordinator position needs to focus more on technology abilities than in the past. In consultation with some of our regular musicians, a job description is being developed that more accurately presents our current needs.

\*All Council members were asked to familiarize themselves with the Our Redeemer's Constitution.

\*A request was made that the Property Development Committee create a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document regarding the possible land sale and post it on the website.

\*The Creation Care team has a calendar for the Lenten season that will be handed out on Sundays.

## **New Business**

\* Council approved the extra compensation proposed by Pastor.

\* The Council Retreat will be Saturday, March 14, 9AM-2PM.

Mary Kay Linke, Secretary

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## **Council Highlights March 14, 2026**

(meeting as part of the Council Retreat longer agenda)

## **February 2026 Financial Reports and Recommendations**

General receipts for the Ministry Fund totaled \$73,336. Building Fund donations totaled \$28,093 (7.5 months' worth of mortgage payments). *This was an exceptional month for giving.* Thank you to the congregation for the ongoing financial vote of confidence in our work together.

## **Ministry Team and Committee Reports**

\*Thanks to Ingrid Childress and Kathy Olson, who are staff the church office Monday to Thursday, 9:00AM to 1:00 PM.

\*Sara Dorrington is doing the weekly e-news, bulletins, and worship slides for us. She will continue on for several weeks once a new Office Manager is hired, with the goal being to give the new hire an opportunity to concentrate on the financial parts of the position first.

\*Pastor recommended that our Director of Children and Family Ministry and Director of Youth Ministry positions increase to from 20 hours a week to 25 hours a week to reflect the extra work they are already doing and compensate them fairly.

\*Pastor reports we have one possible candidate who has the technical skills needed for our newly updated Director of Worship and Music position. He is comfortable waiting until after Easter to visit more about the

## Council Highlights—Continued

position.

\*Bishop Quanbeck is with us this weekend and will spend time with the Council and the newly formed Forward in Faith Team. He will also preach on Sunday and be available to answer questions from members of the congregation.

\*The Property Development Team has created a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document to answer the most commonly asked questions about the sale of our property for affordable housing. The Council reviewed it and added additional questions and clarifications. DevCo's and our attorney are currently working on the sale documents.

\*We are interviewing four candidates for the Office and Facility Manager position this week. Thank you to Charlie Gorman, Darbie Hess, Liz Swenson and Lori Chase for being on this interview committee. Pastor is also a member of the group.

\*The solar panels are scheduled to be installed this week.

### **New Business**

Council approved the increase in hours proposed by Pastor for the two staff.

Mary Kay Linke, Secretary

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### **Council Highlights April 21, 2026**

#### **Welcome to TJ Hunt, new Council member**

After the resignation of a member due to a change in work/family situation, the Council, per the Our Redeemer's constitution, appointed TJ Hunt for the remainder of the year. TJ will be eligible to run for a full term at the next Annual Meeting.

#### **Hunger Team Milk Campaign update**

Linda Nelson gave an update, sharing the history of the yearly campaign since inception in 2013, this year's goal of \$25,000, and the collaboration of 4-5 other area churches this year.

#### **Property Development Committee update**

Jerry Hoover, Sharon Haugen and Herb Kulow joined us and shared:

\*A history of Our Redeemer's land purchase, goals for the land at purchase, and the 2021 attempt to develop the land for affordable housing with local nonprofits.

\*The increase of developing Horseshoe Bend Road from the original \$1.5 million to current \$2.75 million.

\*The DevCo letter of intent approved by council, and that all key issues Our Redeemer's asked for have been agreed to, including assuming the full cost of developing the Horseshoe Bend Road.

\*Presented the Resolution for the Sale of Surplus Property for Affordable Housing to be presented

to the congregation at congregational meeting 4/26/26.

### **Council Liaison Assignments**

Darbie Hess agreed to be the Council liaison to the Preschool Board for the year.

Other assignments to be made at next meeting.

### **March 2026 Financial Reports and Recommendations**

General receipts for the Ministry Fund totaled \$63,704. Building Fund donations totaled \$9,666.

### **Ministry Team and Committee Reports**

\*Pastor reports that Melani Cobb, our new Office and Facility Manager is off to a good start with the help of volunteers Kathy Olson, Ingrid Childress, Kristi Antosh, Jan Martin and Tracey Tintinger. Melani will be with us for worship on May 3 to be introduced to the congregation.

\*Staff is busy planning for VBS.

\*The solar project is completed and will be connected to the grid and operational this week.

\*The Forward in Faith Team has collected comments via email and will meet in early May to begin reviewing them.

### **New Business**

Pastor Trina presented our two candidates for confirmation, Eileen McLane and Brinley Mingay, and the Council approved, with joy and congratulations, this change in status for them.

Mary Kay Linke, Secretary

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### **Council Highlights**

**May 21, 2026**

### **April 2026 Financial Reports and Recommendations**

General receipts for the Ministry Fund totaled \$65,798. Building Fund donations totaled \$11,224.

### **Ministry Team and Committee Reports**

\*Carson Yahvah has been appointed as the Interim Director of Worship and Music, beginning service on May 4.

\*Melani Cobb is doing well with the financial parts of her position and will begin to take on the communication pieces in the next few weeks.

\*Blended Summer Worship begins on May 24. Last year's average attendance was 167, with over 200 a couple times.

\*The Technology Team reports that our server is on its last leg. A decision needs to be made to either replace it (cost of \$11,000) or purchase a business class PC to do the same job (cost of \$4,000). We are also

## Council Highlights—Continued

exploring the need to update the software that controls the HVAC system, which has not been updated since purchased, at the approximate cost of \$10,000 OR moving the system to wall-mounted thermostats. This will likely cost the same but would be a permanent solution.

\*The Property Development Committee reports that surveyors have been working on needed information for the sale. Please familiarize yourselves with the FAQ document on the Our Redeemer's website.

\*The solar panels are working and the \$60,000 grant from Northwestern Energy has been received.

\*Pastor, Charlie and Laura Gorman, Mary Kay Linke, and Dennis Trotter (guest and workshop presenter) will be attending the annual Montana Synod Assembly in Billings May 29-30.

### New Business

\*Jerry Hoover has provided us with some quotes on pending maintenance projects, including putting a coded lock on Door #2 which would replace all keys; looking at the cost of adding AC to the Community Room/Youth Loft area; installing a grassy area between the building and the garden; filling cracks in the parking lots; and some roofing work needed that was found by the solar installers. The Council decided to move forward with the two most urgent ones: filling cracks in the parking lots and the roof repairs. No decisions have been made on the other three projects. Thank you to Jerry for gathering these quotes and all he does on behalf of Our Redeemer's to maintain our building and property.

Mary Kay Linke, Secretary

### SOLAR PANEL REPORT

*Thanks to Herb Kulow for the following explanation of the calculations on the cost of the solar financing.*

Given that we currently have a loan of \$170,000 from Valley Bank at a rate of 5.8% (executed on April 24, 2026) and a Certificate of deposit for \$170,000 at a rate of 3.8%:

- Current monthly interest on the loan is \$821; current monthly interest from the CD is \$538, which has been accumulating since December.
- The \$60,000 renewable energy incentive grant from NorthWestern Energy was received in late May, which now makes interest on the remaining loan balance of \$110,000, \$531. Interest from the CD will continue to be \$538/month.
- We will receive a renewable energy incentive payment of approximately \$51,000 from the federal government sometime in early 2027. At that time, Valley Bank will refinance the loan and Our Redeemer's will begin making monthly payments of principal and interest on the balance of the \$59,000 loan. At the same time, our solar panel system will be producing an average of between \$1500 and \$2000 worth of electricity per month.
- As of this writing, May 9, our system has produced 5.5 Megawatt hours of electricity and prevented 9 tons of CO2 from being emitted in the 16 days that the system has been up and running.

Congratulations, Our Redeemer's, on a sound financial investment as well as faithful stewardship of the Earth!

# LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS

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

## Our Members

<b>Joan Anderson</b>	<b>George Hafer</b>	<b>Chloe MacIntyre</b>	<b>Elmer Strong</b>
<b>Gordon Blomquist</b>	<b>Greg Johnson</b>	<b>Lorna Meyer</b>	
<b>Richard Carey</b>	<b>Noreen Johnson</b>	<b>Dale Mickus</b>	
<b>Roberta Carey</b>	<b>Carol Kimble</b>	<b>Julie Mehl</b>	

## 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)

## Our Seminarian

**Shawn, Sara, Addie & Kaden**

## Our Family and Friends Serving in the Military

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

## Our Redeemer's Support Groups

### CAREGIVER'S SUPPORT GROUP

Caregiver's support group will NOT meet in June.

Lori Bigwood-Pecarina and Jane Peachey lead this group. This group walks together through the joys and challenges of caregiving. Company is available in the Great Room during the meeting for your loved one. You may contact Lori at 406-672-2470 or Jane at 234-567-1461 with any questions.



### GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

The Grief Group will meet at Great Harvest Bread (1133 Helena Ave) on June 10 at 1:30pm. 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. For questions, information, or support, call Jane Peachey or Lori Bigwood-Pecarina.



**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**

# June BIRTHDAYS

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

- |      |                     |      |                  |
|------|---------------------|------|------------------|
| 6/1  | Guy Goughnour       | 6/26 | Wendy Vukonich   |
| 6/2  | Trent Selvig        | 6/27 | Judy Mickus      |
| 6/4  | Carol Will          |      | Lauren Robertson |
|      | Asher Bomar         |      | Laura Leck       |
|      | TJ Hunt             |      | Abbey Beggar     |
| 6/5  | Madison Robertson   | 6/28 | Kayme May        |
|      | Dale Mickus         |      | Beth Johnson     |
|      | Nelson Bock         |      | Dave Mehl        |
|      | Dave Carlson        |      | Diane Tackett    |
| 6/6  | Kaela Burke         | 6/29 | Nate Jensen      |
|      | Wrenlee Hudson      | 6/30 | Glenn Erickson   |
| 6/7  | Katrina Steinhoff   |      | Janet Lauf       |
| 6/8  | Ann Marie Carlson   |      |                  |
| 6/9  | Wyatt Russeff       |      |                  |
| 6/10 | Patrick Fischer     |      |                  |
| 6/11 | Harry Howell        |      |                  |
|      | Lawrence Sheldon    |      |                  |
| 6/14 | Kapri Byrne         |      |                  |
|      | David Hanson        |      |                  |
|      | Roger Kitts         |      |                  |
| 6/15 | Vicki Chapman       |      |                  |
|      | Eric Meyer          |      |                  |
| 6/16 | Ryan Griffeth       |      |                  |
| 6/17 | Edward Johnson      |      |                  |
| 6/18 | David Fulkerson     |      |                  |
| 6/19 | Jennifer Colegrove  |      |                  |
| 6/20 | Chris Boe           |      |                  |
|      | Tenley Forgey       |      |                  |
| 6/21 | Jack Palmer         |      |                  |
| 6/22 | Trey Tintinger      |      |                  |
|      | Emmett Dike         |      |                  |
|      | Emerald Parisi      |      |                  |
| 6/23 | Kit Quinn           |      |                  |
| 6/24 | Lynn Voss           |      |                  |
|      | Judy McLean         |      |                  |
|      | Bonnie McFarland    |      |                  |
| 6/25 | Mark Studt          |      |                  |
|      | Charlotte MacIntyre |      |                  |
|      | Randy Huffsmith     |      |                  |
|      | Katie Kuhns         |      |                  |

## 90+ YEARS OLD

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

Kit Quinn (age 90)  
1507 Hollins  
Helena, MT 59601

## June Anniversaries

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

- |           |                         |          |
|-----------|-------------------------|----------|
| 6/23/1963 | Lowell & Joan Anderson  | 62 years |
| 6/24/1968 | Jim & Barb Penner       | 57 years |
| 6/9/1972  | Tim & Dorothy Cail      | 53 years |
| 6/21/1975 | Rick & Vicki Chapman    | 50 years |
| 6/14/1975 | Bob & JoAnn Maffit      | 50 years |
| 6/28/1975 | Guy & Diane Stavnes     | 50 years |
| 6/19/1977 | Dan & Ellen Dodds       | 48 years |
| 6/10/1978 | Bob & Lyanne Den Herder | 47 years |
| 6/17/1978 | Linda & Pat Lynch       | 47 years |
| 6/11/1978 | Sherril & David Senn    | 47 years |
| 6/23/1979 | Doris & Dennis Heffner  | 46 years |
| 6/30/1979 | Larry & Gayle Sheldon   | 46 years |
| 6/27/1981 | Harry & Sheri Howell    | 44 years |
| 6/25/1983 | Bill & Cheri Goosen     | 42 years |
| 6/2/1984  | Kevin & Marie Rauch     | 41 years |

*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

**Melani Cobb, Office and Facilities Manager**

Melani@OurRedeemerLives.Org

**Sarah Magee, Director of Finance**

Sarah@OurRedeemerLives.Org

**Steph Richardson, Director of Youth Ministry**

Steph@OurRedeemerLives.Org

**Liz Swenson, Director of Children and Family Ministry**

Liz@OurRedeemerLives.Org

**Carson Yahvah, Interim Director of Worship and Music**

Carson@OurRedeemerLives.Org

**Linda Keim, Organist**

**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**

**Kristen Sapp, Preschool Director/Teacher**

Kristen@OurRedeemerLives.Org

**Angie Adams, Preschool Teacher**

Angie@OurRedeemerLives.Org

**Sara Dorrington, Instructional Aide**

SaraDorrington@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**

Monday, June 15 at 5:00PM

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:

**Charlie Gorman, President**

president@ouredeemerlives.org

406-202-9509

**Trudy Burke, First Vice President**

trudyburke@msn.com

406-431-6217

**Tracey Tintinger, Second Vice President**

tvting@bresnan.net

406-459-8478

**Attila Folnagy, Past President**

attilafolnagy@gmail.com

208-640-3198

**Jan Martin, Treasurer**

jomvallymt@gmail.com

406-459-3339

**Mary Kay Linke, Secretary**

marykaylinke@gmail.com

406-465-1099

**Darby Hess, Member at Large**

darbie.hess@gmail.com

406-303-1257

**Timothy John (TJ) Hunt, Member at Large**

timothyjohnhunt@gmail.com

406-603-0731

**Sharon Langdorf, Member at Large**

momlangdorf@gmail.com

406-458-5540

**Charlotte Neill, Member at Large**

cneill001@luthersem.edu

406-465-3453

**Jack Palmer, Member at Large**

johnpalmerpro@gmail.com

406-460-0133



# Vacation Bible School 2026

Monday, June 22 — Thursday, June 26

9:00am — Noon



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