

OUR REDEEMER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH THE VOICE

September 2025



Fall Programming begins on September 14

8:30am - Traditional Worship with the Organ
9:45am - Education Hour and Fellowship
11:00am - Contemporary Worship with the Band

OUR REDEEMER'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
& PRESCHOOL



Were you in worship on August 24?* We heard about our young peoples' summer camp adventures (*funded by you*), and blessed them and their backpacks as they head back to school. The front was packed with kids with brand spanking new backpacks and wearing the fun magic glasses Pastor Adam used in his Children's Message. We got to hear about how good the food at camp was, all the new friends made, and of victories over the swim test and high ropes course. Morgan May shared about her trip to Phoenix as a voting member to this year's Churchwide Assembly, where she helped elect our new presiding bishop, Pastor Yehiel Curry.

What a wonderful morning it was!* And I hope it gave you a glimpse of all that is going on in our ministry with children and youth ... the significant growth we've experienced in the last few years in this area. This growth in participation, and their experiences over the summer and through Sunday and Wednesday programming, are *your gifts at work*. That money in the offering plate on Sunday, the check you mail to the office, the automatic deposit each month, the annual required minimum distribution you direct our way ... that's what it turns into. Your faithful gifts turn into young people growing in faith, engaged in faith, becoming tomorrow's leaders right before our eyes.

But wait, that's not all the good news this month! We've gotten the results of the HolyCow! survey and it shows a vital congregation with high levels of satisfaction and energy. Plus we're flexible ... a pastor's dream! On July 23 we had Elizabeth Hamilton from HolyCow! interpret the data collected for the Council, staff, the Long-Range Planning Team, and assorted other leaders. It was so inspiring that we're going to have her return to share the same information with the whole congregation. Join us after worship on September 7 at 11:00 for an hour of really good news and some direction for the future. Tasty snacks and childcare provided. Here's a link to the executive summary the company prepared for us if you'd like a sneak peek: <https://tinyurl.com/3twx7w47>

The Fall is looking Full...with adult education offerings to stimulate and provide growth in faith; a women's retreat with Pastor Julia Seymour returning to give us some insight on prayer; a way to offer some sweat equity as we tackle projects around our campus on the Stewardship Work Day; and another opportunity to hear John Hermanson and other great musicians in concert. These program offerings are all highlighted in this edition of the *Voice*, so read on.

As always, dear ones, it is such a joy to be in ministry with you. What a great privilege to be part of bringing in the Kingdom of God in this place and time.

Pastor Trina

*Here's a link to that service: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ov7RFoE4K_k



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

Adult Education Fall 2025

Beginning Thursday, September 4

Faith and Fries – First Thursday of the Month – 6:00-7:30pm

Join Pastor Adam at the Brewhouse Downstairs for this monthly gathering for individuals ages 20-40. We will join together for fellowship and conversation around faith and culture. Come grab a late dinner and/or a drink (beer, tea, water, etc.) and relax with good conversation. Fries are on us! For more information contact Pastor Adam at adam@ourredeemerlives.org.

Beginning Sunday, September 14

Adult Education each Sunday between services – 9:45-10:45am

Grab coffee and a couple cookies and head for the Community Room. We will start with the Creation Care Team showing us a video on the Montana Synod's efforts to address climate change, followed by three weeks of Dennis Trotter offering more *Confirmation for Adults*. (September 21, 28 and October 5)

Beginning Thursday, September 18

Looking Ahead to Sunday – Thursdays at 11:00am

Join Pastor Trina in a weekly study of the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday. No experience needed! Just bring your Bible and your life experience.

Beginning Sunday, October 12

Group Book Study at a variety of times and locations.

For those interested in exploring the intersection between our faith and the world we live in, several groups will form to read *Jesus for President: Politics for Ordinary Radicals* by Shane Claiborne and Chris Haw. Stay tuned for more information on this.

Second Annual Women's Retreat

Take it to the Lord in Prayer

**Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church
September 26-27, 2025**

Friday 7:00-9:00pm

- Movie
- Snacks
- Popcorn
- Drinks

Saturday 9:00am - 3:00pm

- Speaker: Pastor Julia Seymour
- Lunch
- Craft project
- Closing worship



Registration will open on August 25. The cost is \$20 per person for Saturday; there is no cost for the Friday night movie.

You can use this link, <https://forms.gle/nBJedi4eYifkZKHJA>, or QR code to register.

Paper registration forms will also be available soon. For more information, contact Jan Martin at jomvallymt@gmail.com.

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

Pastor Adam Barnhart, Pastor

Adam@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Lori Walter, Office Manager

LoriW@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

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 Evans, Preschool Teacher

Angie@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Marie Grissom, Instructional Aide

Marie@OurRedeemerLives.Org

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

Voice articles due on the 15th of each month

Monday, September 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:

Attila Fohnagy, President

president@ourredeemerlives.org
208-640-3198

Liaison: Facilities and Administration

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

Ingrid Childress, Past President

ichildress406@gmail.com
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Liaison: Facilities and Administration

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Liaison: Outreach

Edward Johnson, Member at Large

edwardmartinjohnson62@gmail.com
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sarahmarieirvin@hotmail.com
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marykaylinke@gmail.com
406-465-1099

Liaison: Outreach

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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



September Birthdays!

Remember our friends in Christ with a Birthday prayer!

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| 1 Shea Kitts
Carol Olmstead | 7 Owen Hanson
Graysen Molenda
Sarah Sampson | 17 Kruz Green
Tami Rasmussen | 25 Katherine Guariglia |
| 2 Bob Den Herder
Ken Kolb | 8 Mark Barry
Sawyer Mingay
Janet Whitmoyer | 18 Kevin Rauch
Sherril Senn | 27 Ellie Harris
Sharon Haugen |
| 3 Gary Swanson | 9 Nicole Russeff | 19 Sandy Bay
Travis Wilfong | 28 Del Carroll
Sara Juers |
| 4 Trudy Burke
Jerry Hoover
Hunter Perry | 10 Brynn Selvig | 20 Claire Lake
Reid Willard | 30 Neil Brunett
Karen Darlow
Ron Pecarina |
| 5 Sophie Robertson | 11 Lori Walter | 22 Anna Connerton
Lupine Meyer
Kim Randall | |
| 6 Kelly Elder
Dylan Grimmis
Everly Hanson
Grace McAlpin
Abigail McLane | 12 Malinda Diamond
13 Mark DeBoer
Mary Williams
16 Brian Coble
Sharlene Wetherell | 24 Shylah Blomquist
Lori Chase
Erik Helfert | |



Fall Milk Campaign for Helena Food Share

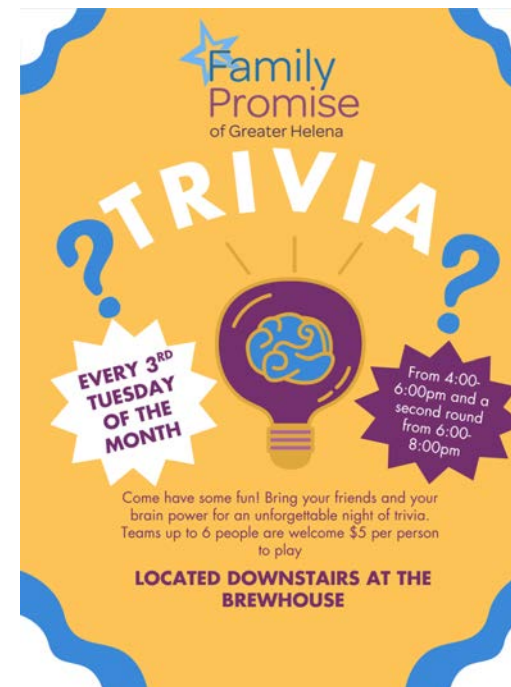
Meet our mascot for the milk campaign for the Kid Pack Program for 2025. The mascot is without a name at the moment, but we plan for children and youth to submit names early in September. The mascot reminds us of the need for milk as a building block for children's health.

The milk campaign will launch on **Sunday, September 7** and conclude on **Sunday, October 12**. Don't miss the excitement as we launch the campaign. This year's goal is \$25,300. That will purchase all the milk for all the kid packs delivered in the Helena area during the 2025-26 school year. We've met or exceeded our goal every year. We look forward to doing so once again.

Several of you picked up the small milk bottles during the summer for collecting bills and small change. You may start returning them to the Helena Food Share display in the entryway any time after September 7. You may also donate online or with checks. Checks should denote "Milk Money" on the memo line. Here is the QR code for direct online giving to Milk Money.



This year both New Life Lutheran and St. John's Lutheran will be joining us in the campaign. Won't it be fantastic to present the BIG CHECK to Helena Food Share from all the ELCA Lutherans in Helena?



Family Promise Update

Thank you to everyone who helped host our Family Promise guests the week of August 17-24: those who set up the rooms, those who tore down the rooms, those who served meals, those who shopped, and those who served as overnight hosts. You were willing to give of your time and talents, and you are greatly appreciated.

The property on Cooke Street that served as the Day Center for Family Promise is now being converted into a residence for Family Promise guests in transition and for Ruth's Place, a women's shelter. The foundation for the expansion has been poured, and all inspections are on target. It appears that the contractor will soon begin framing the building.

Community Garden

Thanks to all who have helped in the garden in any way this year, and also thanks to the plot renters. Beautiful things are happening in the garden! So far this year, we have taken rhubarb, radishes, spinach, green beans, zucchini, and an abundant harvest of raspberries to Helena Food Share. Yet to be harvested are garlic, tomatoes, peppers, onions, carrots, beets, cabbages and more green beans, as they mature. Remember, you are welcome to join us in the garden on Thursday nights at 6:30pm, through the end of September for harvesting and other garden maintenance. The flower beds are overflowing and could use some attention!

If you harvest and deliver anything to Helena Food Share, please save the receipt and return it to Elaine Ulgenes (elaineulge@yahoo.com).

90+ YEARS OLD

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

Del Carroll (age 93)
231 Sheps Rd
Townsend, MT 59644



Funerals

8/22/25 Ruth Straley



Happy Anniversary

Celebrate with those married 40 years or more this month!

Tim & Laurel Orthmeyer	9/7/1985	40 years
Richard & Lori Chase	9/22/1984	41 years
Kevin & Lisa Mathews	9/9/1983	42 Years
Dan & Mary Adams	9/15/1979	46 years
Ray & Linda Read	9/10/1966	59 years
Jim & Janice Anderson	9/5/1965	60 years



Baptisms

8/10/2025 Wrenlee Jean Marie Hudson
8/17/2025 Saylor Mae Palmer

Children's Ministry Registration Open!

Sunday School starts on **September 14!** Please follow the link **OR** use the following QR code to register for the 2025-2026 Children's Ministry Christian educational opportunities.



Join Us

<https://forms.gle/YxSScdCAzZ5jMqLJ9>

October 25th @ 1:00-3:00PM

All families of children age 3-5th grade should have received a letter in the mail with more detailed information!

All Children and Families are welcome!

Contact Liz at liz@ourredeemerlives.org with questions.

If you would like to host a trunk at this event, please follow the link, use the QR code below **OR** contact Liz or Steph!



<https://forms.gle/DidYj1X22R57imjM9>



Volunteers Needed!

⇒ We are in need of Sunday School and KidTime leaders and subs for the 2025-2026 school year. All lessons and materials are prepared for you!

Contact Liz, liz@ourredeemerlives.org!

Contact Liz, liz@ourredeemerlives.org **OR** Steph steph@ourredeemerlives.org with questions!

Stewardship Work Day @ ORLC

September



- 14 Sunday School
- 14 Slip N' Slide Kickball Kickoff, 4pm
- 21 Sunday School
- 28 Sunday School

When: October 4th @ 10am-Noon

Who: All ages—bring the whole family!

What: Bring some work gloves, and join us to pull weeds, rake leaves, pick up garbage, and work on special projects around the church.



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

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)

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 | |

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, September 21, at 9:45am, 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 will meet between services at 9:45am on Sunday, September 14. Grief has no clear pathway some of our members come intermittently, some are regular. Feelings are complicated and no two people grieve the same way. Together we walk knowing there are others who are willing to listen as we work through the ups, downs and crazy triggers of grief. All are welcome. Questions, concerns or just need a listener 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**

2025 Camp Reflections

- ◆ The things I liked about camp were swimming in the lake, playing gaga ball, getting to do archery, and hanging out with my fellow cabin mates. My favorite thing about camp was hanging out with our brother cabin. I had a lot of fun at camp this year. Thank you for helping me get to camp.
-Natalie, age 11
- ◆ While at camp I learned that I am a pretty good campfire cook. My favorite part of camp was the kayaking and the swimming. The highlight of my week was my counselor Jo-ahn. He was from the Dominican Republic and he was very nice. Thank you for supporting my time at camp, I had an interesting week.
-Wolfgang, first time camper
- ◆ While at camp I learned a lot of new games and new rules for ga-ga ball. My favorite part of camp was the escape room because we set the camp record. The highlight of my week was my counselor Griffin because he read Shakespeare to us. Thank you for supporting us going to camp.
-Shea, first time camper
- ◆ My favorite part of camp was rock climbing, the counselors, staying in tents, and there was good food. The highlight of my week was camping on the lake. I had a great time, thank you for sponsoring me.
-George, first time camper
- ◆ I attended Christikon this summer and I had a fantastic time! Thank you for your support in sending me to camp! I participated in backpacking in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. My favorite part about camp was the friendships I made while on the trail and the fun conversations we had along the way. Thank you for supporting me on my faith journey and sending me to camp!
-Emily, age 16
- ◆ I went to Christikon this summer and had a phenomenal time. Thank you so much for your support in sending me to camp! Backpacking allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of myself and demonstrated the extent of my mental and physical resilience.
-Claire, age 18
- ◆ While I was at FLBC I attended Theater Camp. It was a fun experience, I felt accepted for who I am. During the Passion Play, I got to play Mary Magdalene. While practicing for the play, I discovered how important she was as a friend and Disciple to Jesus. Worshiping along side many other friends I felt God's love. Thank you for your support. I look forward to continue my camp visits for many years to come. I also look forward to continuing to grow my faith in God.
-Alayna, age 15
- ◆ I would like to thank everyone who made it possible for me to attend FLBC this summer! During my week at Ranch camp, I learned how to take care of a horse. My horse's name was Teton. At camp, I learned that gophers look like bunnies and that the water in Flathead Lake is very cold. I was most excited about passing my swim test. I am most thankful for the wonderful friends that I made at camp.
-Hunter
- ◆ I went to FLBC this summer and I had a wonderful adventure. I attended Ranch Camp where I learned to ride and take care of horses. My favorite part of camp was having a night time hot chocolate party. At camp I felt a connection to God's presence. Camp fire stories were inviting. Thank you for sending me to camp. I look forward to next year.
-Claire, age 9

middle school.

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church

REGISTRATION is open for all Middle School and Confirmation events. Use the QR code to pull up the registration form.



Who: Middle Schoolers and friends
When: Wednesday, October 15 - Thursday, October 16
Where: Ulm, MT
More details to come next month.
Mark your calendars and save the date.

**Confirmation Orientation for
New Families
September 10, 6pm**

Kickoff Slip N' Slide Kickball Event!

When: Sunday, September 14, 4:00-6:00pm

Bring your friends and family for an all youth fall kick-off at church. Liz will have things for the littles while the bigs play kickball. We are going to spoil your dinner with ice cream as



Starting on Sunday, September 21 from 9:45-10:45am in the Loft, Steph will be offering a causal time together reflecting on the morning's text. 6-12 graders are welcome to join!

Sunday Gatherings in the Loft

-Volunteers Needed for Wednesday Nights-

Liz and Steph are in need of volunteers to help prep/pickup and cleanup dinner and for a guitar player for our small prayer service. Please contact either of them if you have some time to give.



liz@ouredeemerlives.org steph@ouredeemerlives.org



high school.

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church

REGISTRATION is open for all High School events. Use the QR code to pull up the registration form.



Who: High Schoolers and friends
When: Thursday, October 16 - Friday, October 17
Where: Ulm, MT
More details to come next month.
Mark your calendars and save the date.

**Wednesday Night Youth Group
Begins September 17, 6:00-8:00pm**

WELCA
(Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)

NEW - WINE WEDNESDAY!

New this fall! Join Charlene for Wine Wednesday at 7:00pm for some social time with the women of our church. We will gather at the Hawthorne downtown to visit and get to know each other better in a little different setting. Our first gathering will be Wednesday, September 3. For more information, contact Charlene Mayala at csmayala66@gmail.com or 406-465-0956.

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 trina@ourredeemerlives.org or 406-442-7842.

TOUCHMARK WORSHIP SERVICE

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church will celebrate worship and communion at Touchmark Retirement Community on September 16 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.

CREATION CARE CORNER

“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Matthew 6:21

Author Roman Krznaric writes about “cathedral thinking” and encourages an ethic of “longtermism” where we think of ourselves as ancestors. Our days pass quickly, and do we think intentionally about what we are building for the next generation? (Indigenous wisdom urges us to think ahead seven generations!) Some positive examples he gives are the global eradication of smallpox, the US Constitution, and Yellowstone National Park. Our ancestors thought ahead generations and left wonderful legacies to benefit us.

Taking time to consider our personal and generational legacy in the context of God’s beautiful Creation is a worthwhile exercise. Talking about our legacy, thinking about the “cathedrals” we’ve help build, and engaging with the next generation can inspire change.

What do you want the next generation(s) to know about you and your experience on this planet? How do you want to be remembered? What do you want your legacy to be?

Creation Care Team contacts:
Nelson Bock at nbock6552@gmail.com
Elaine Ulgenes at elaineulge@yahoo.com

Helena Interfaith Climate Advocates (HICA)

Supported by the Helena Area Community Foundation (HACF), the City of Helena, and the Lewis & Clark Library
Present

“Climate Change: Let’s Talk About It”

A series of free public presentations from September 3 to September 24, inspired by the 2021 book ***Saving Us: A Climate Scientist’s Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World***
By Katharine Hayhoe

***Wednesday, September 3** at the Lewis & Clark Library, 120 S. Last Chance Gulch, noon to 1:00pm
A Little More Weather Wise, featuring Curtis Grevenitz, Chief Meteorologist, KTVH

***Wednesday, September 10** at the Helena Indian Alliance, 501 Euclid Ave., noon to 1:00pm
Earth Care and the Indigenous Voice, featuring M.L. Smoker, Montana Co-Poet Laureate, (2019 - 2021) and Mike Jetty, Indian Education Specialist for the Montana Office of Public Instruction

***Wednesday, September 17** at Montana Wild, 2668 Broadwater Ave., **12:30pm to 1:30pm** (note time adjustment)
Adapting Bird Migrations, featuring Mark Mariano, Ecologist and co-founder of Montana Wetlands and Waterfowl Project

***Wednesday, September 24** at Plymouth Congregational Church, 400 S. Oakes, noon to 1:00pm
Faith Perspectives on Nature, featuring Jeanette Fregulia, Ph.D., History Department, Carroll College; Sue Kronenberger, Flowing Mountains Sangha Buddhist Community; Eric Meyer, Ph.D., Theology Department, Carroll College

Coffee Hour Update and a Request for Your Involvement

For many years we had a faithful volunteer, Joe Ruby, who arrived early each Sunday morning to make coffee and set out treats, and then stayed into the afternoon cleaning up after this time of fellowship. We’re finding it difficult to replicate all that Joe did and need your help!

On Sunday, September 14 we return to two services (8:30 and 11:00) and volunteers will continue to host a time of fellowship between services (9:30-11:00). Volunteers are in place to get the weekly coffee hour up and running, but we need people to help clean up afterwards (put away leftovers, run dishes through the dishwasher). We expect this task to occur between 10:55 – 11:30. Contact Dee Dee and Gary Fischer at dgfischer1@msn.com for more information and to get on the schedule to help.

If you are a regular at the 11:00 service, we encourage you to come early for a cup of coffee and some fellowship with friends. We will continue to put out coffee and hot water for tea after the 11:00 service, but treats will not be put out. Paper cups will be offered so clean up is easy and no extra dishes are created.

Thanks to all who bring treats each week and those already volunteering to staff the weekly coffee hour. This is an important time of fellowship and community building. Please consider how you can help support it.

Montana Synodical Women's 2025 Gathering

Walk in the Light of Christ

St. John's Lutheran Church

1000 Helena Avenue

Saturday, September 20, 2025 9:00am - 3:30pm

- Keynote Speaker: Pastor Christine Holler-Dinsmore
- Faith development and community building
- Crafts, Music and Movement
- Lunch and Fellowship
- Worship and Service Projects
- All Women in the Synod are invited to attend
- Contact Jennifer Wintersteen 406-459-1378
- Registration form available in Our Redeemer's office

A Memoir & Mini-Retreat

*Deepening our Experience of God's Story,
through reflecting on One Woman's Story*

St. Peter's Episcopal Cathedral

Sunday, September 28, 2025 2:30-4:30pm

RSVP to Rev. Kendra Wilde

rector@spchelena.org

Helena women, you are invited to meet author Carolyn Flynn

- Refreshments
- Presentation
- Opening Meditation
- Conversation

HELENA ARE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT TEAM (HARRT)

invites you to share an evening of
community, compassion and culture

AUTHENTIC AFGHAN DINNER

Sunday September 7, 2025, 4:00-8:00pm

\$100 per plate

SHADES OF GREEN

3403 Cooney Dr, Helena

- Live music by WILBUR REHMAN TRIO
- Silent and Live Auction
- Stories of hope, courage and community support

All proceeds to benefit the PATHWAY FORWARD PROGRAM

Providing vital support for refugee resettlement in Helena, ESL,
job coaching, emergency assistance and community integration

PLEASE RSVP: Valerie 406-439-3580 Asa 406-594-6621

Sing a New Song!

A Festival of Hymns for Pastors and Church Musicians

Friday - Saturday, October 17 & 18, 2025

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church

Friday, October 17 • 7:00pm
JOHN HERMANSON IN CONCERT
with Maren Haynes Marchesini &
Megan Makeever

an evening of original sacred folk music

Join award-winning folk musician and composer John Hermanson for a worshipful meditation featuring his newly-arranged liturgy, Isaiah: Is This the Fast We Choose? This edition of John's liturgy was commissioned by Holden Village, an ELCA camp and conference center with a rich musical tradition, to sing weekly throughout the 2025 summer season. John is joined by Maren Haynes Marchesini and Megan Makeever, who contribute thoughtful, rich vocal harmonies and arrangements for cello, flute, and piano.

Open to the public

Saturday, October 18

9:00am - 3:00pm

**A Workshop for Pastors and Church
Musicians**

Pastors and church musicians are invited to a one-day workshop led by musicians and liturgical artists Dr. Maren Haynes Marchesini and John Hermanson, co-founders of the Center for the Arts at Hope Lutheran Church in Bozeman, with Megan.

Come for a fun, worshipful day with amazing music and great conversation! Lunch provided.

- **Explore** how to expand and revitalize your congregation's music and singing practices, whether your church has 10 people or 200 (or more - or fewer!).
- **Sing** new hymns for Christian worship, drawing widely from traditional, contemporary, global, and meditative sources.
- **Share** what's inspiring you in church ministry today - and what's frustrating you, too!
- **Build** a community of support with other pastors and musicians across Montana.

About the Center for the Arts at Hope Lutheran Church

The Center for the Arts at Hope Lutheran Church is a new initiative enlivening Christian worship through traditional and experimental music, visual art, writing, improvisation, dance, animation, and more. The Center hosts artists-in-residence, sponsors innovative performances, publishes new resources for congregations, offers workshops and retreats, and crafts artistic worship services. The Center seeks to impact the wider church by providing excellent, compelling experiences and resources that engage with the diverse prophetic, mystical, and Confessing streams of the Christian tradition.

Workshop Leaders

Dr. Maren Haynes Marchesini, co-founder of the Center for the Arts and Director of Worship and Music at Hope Lutheran Church, is a choral director, cellist, vocalist, composer, author, and scholar with broad-ranging musical interests. She holds a PhD in Ethnomusicology, and brings great passion for an ever-expanding range of Christian hymns, community singing, diverse musical traditions, improvisation, collaboration, and play to enliven congregations of all sizes and denominations.



John Hermanson is an award-winning songwriter and composer of the acclaimed acoustic duo Storyhill, as well as projects spanning orchestral, world, pop, rock, and indie genres. Raised in the Lutheran church and rooted in prophetic and mystical traditions, his sacred songs raise ancient yet urgent questions about radical love and mutual responsibility, written in his compelling, distinctive folk style. John is a permanent artist-in-residence at Hope Lutheran Church, and co-founder of the Center for the Arts.

Megan Makeever is a professional flutist, multi-instrumentalist, award-winning singer/songwriter, recording artist, and music educator/collaborator. Megan writes original music, and plays flute with the Bozeman Symphony, Montana Ballet Orchestra, Bozeman Chamber Music Project, and the Ellen Theatre Orchestra. She has served in music leadership with Christian, Jewish, and Unitarian congregations, and brings a passion for heartfelt, philosophical, and social justice song practices.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

August 19, 2025

Preschool Budget

Kristen Sapp, Preschool Director, presented the preschool budget for the 2025-26 school year. Although the enrollment in the preschool is smaller than hoped for, the budget can adequately meet the needs for the upcoming year. At the time of the meeting, there were still two openings in the three-year-old program, and one opening in the four-year-old program. The Council approved the budget unanimously and expressed appreciation to Kristen for her enthusiasm and careful examination of the budget concerns.

Financial Report and Recommendations

General receipts for the Ministry Fund totaled \$45,116.61 for July, and Building Fund donations totaled \$7,325. However, because of extra expenses incurred during the month of July, the Council agreed to hold both the Building Fund payment and the Synod donation for July, leaving a cash balance of \$10,529.57.

Pastor Trina's Report and Staff Reports

Worship attendance continued to be high during the month of July. The Music and Worship position has not yet been filled. We are looking for a musician who can both lead the worship band and assist with the sound system. Pastor Adam has been troubleshooting the sound system, but he needs an audio person who would be available on a regular basis. The HolyCow! survey results have been shared with key leaders in the church. A full summary and explanation will soon be available for any other interested persons. Look for more information to follow, once a date has been established with HolyCow! personnel.

Stewardship Committee

The committee is working on plans for a fall stewardship focus. Stay tuned for more information.

Property Development Team

The team continues to explore a variety of options for developing our property.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee will convene for its first meeting this week.

New Business

- Charlie Gorman is examining the possibility of offering a First Aid, CPR, and AED class for church members and staff. The class includes both an online offering and a practical session, offered by St. Peter's Medical Group. More information will be shared when dates are established.
- Political signage on the church property
 - ◊ The Council turned down a request to place signs on the church property in favor of the upcoming school bond issue. However, members are welcome to share information about the issue.
- Informal Classification and Appraisal Review for Tax Assessment
 - ◊ The recent tax assessment on the property was eight times more than previous years. Jerry Hoover has requested a review of this assessment.
- New Audio/Visual equipment for the Great Room and other spaces
 - ◊ Dennis Trotter is seeking an estimate for new audio-visual equipment to be placed on the ceiling and walls in the Community Room, Youth Loft, and Great Room and other educational spaces.

Linda Nelson
Secretary

YEHIEL CURRY ELECTED PRESIDING BISHOP OF THE ELCA

The Rev. Yehiel Curry was elected July 30 to serve a six-year term as presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The election took place during the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly being held July 28–August 2 at the Phoenix (Ariz.) Convention Center.



Curry was elected on the fifth ballot. There were 799 votes cast, with 400 votes needed for an election. Curry received 562 votes, and the Rev. Kevin Strickland, bishop of the ELCA Southeastern Synod, received 237 votes. Curry is the first Black presiding bishop of the ELCA.

Speaking to the assembly after his election, Curry reflected on his membership at Shekinah Chapel in Riverdale, Ill., where he eventually became a lay mission developer while he participated in the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries program, which prepares individuals for ordained ministry in the ELCA, with a focus on emerging ministry contexts like ethnic-specific, multicultural, rural and inner-city settings. He spoke to the assembly about his initial hesitation in accepting that first ministry role.

"Perhaps I'm out there in one of you," Curry said. "I never saw myself as good enough, so for two years, I said no. I finally said yes. When I said yes, your support, this church's support, of that ministry meant everything. So if you want to know what your benevolence dollars look like, it looks like me, and I want to say thank you. Thank you for your investment."

Curry has served as bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod since 2019. He previously served as mission developer (2009-2012) and pastor (2012-2019) of Shekinah.

He received a Bachelor of Arts from Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill., in 1995 and a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) in 2013. LSTC is one of seven ELCA seminaries.

The churchwide assembly, the chief legislative authority of the ELCA, is meeting under the theme "For the Life of the World." The assembly will participate in plenary discussions to make decisions about the work of this church. They will also spend time in worship and engage in various ways of theological reflection.

LUCILLE "CECEE" MILLS ELECTED SECRETARY OF THE ELCA

The Rev. Lucille "CeCee" Mills was elected August 1 to serve a six-year term as secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The election took place during the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly being held July 28–August 2 at the Phoenix (Ariz.) Convention Center.



Mills was elected on the fifth ballot. There were 782 ballots cast, with 392 votes needed for an election. Mills received 404 votes to 378 votes for the Rev. Matthew Riegel, bishop of the ELCA West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod. Mills will be the first Black secretary of the ELCA.

"I have to echo our newly elected presiding bishop (Yehiel Curry) — I'm the product of you. I'm also a TEEM candidate," Mills said to the assembly following her election. The Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) program prepares individuals for ordained ministry in the ELCA, with a focus on emerging ministry contexts such as ethnic-specific, multicultural, rural and inner-city settings.

"I do believe it's a new season for our church," Mills said. "I do believe that the reason why I, an African American woman who stands before you with no degrees in a church that cares so much about education, ... is because you saw the gifts and potential in me. I celebrate with you that we listen to God's call and that we will become God's beloved community."

Mills has served as an assistant to the bishop in the ELCA North Carolina Synod since 2019. Previously she served as an interim pastor, as program associate for African Descent Ministries with the ELCA churchwide organization in Chicago; and as pastor of Rejoice Lutheran Church, Chesapeake, Va. She received a TEEM certification from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, S.C., in 2002.

This churchwide assembly, the chief legislative authority of the ELCA, is meeting under the theme "For the Life of the World." The assembly is participating in plenary discussions to make decisions about the work of this church. They are also spending time in worship and engaging in various ways of theological reflection.

BENJAMIN QUANBECK ELECTED BISHOP OF THE ELCA MONTANA SYNOD

The Rev. Benjamin K. Quanbeck, Billings, Montana, was elected May 31 to serve a six-year term as bishop of the Montana Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The election took place during the synod assembly, May 30-31 at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls, Montana.

Quanbeck was elected on the fifth ballot, with 105 votes. The Rev. Laurie Jungling, current bishop of the synod, received 74 votes.

The bishop-elect has served as a pastor of King of Glory Lutheran Church in Billings since 2013. From 2008 to 2011, Quanbeck served as associate pastor of Mountain View Lutheran Church in Edgewood, Washington.

Quanbeck earned a Bachelor of Science from North Dakota State University in Fargo, North Dakota in 2002 and a Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota in 2008. Luther is one of seven ELCA seminaries. He will take office September 1 and be installed September 20.



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 Our Redeemer's ministries and our mission. However, many of you may not be familiar with some of these individuals, as they work behind the scenes and do not seek recognition. So, each month, one of us interviews one of the individuals who comes to our collective mind and shares some little-known facts about them with you.

She's an elegant, stately woman with curly white hair. She has been an active member of Our Redeemer's since 2013 and now serves as a member of the Church Council. But there is so much more to know about her!



Charlotte (Char) Neill (nee Johnson) has been involved in the Lutheran Church since, as a little girl growing up in St. Paul, MN, she came home from school one day after hearing classmates talk about their religious affiliations and asked her parents, "What are we?". Her parents then decided it was time to begin taking Char to church and Sunday School. Since both sides of her family had strong roots in the Icelandic Lutheran Church, that's where they took her.

Char had actually come from a long line of Icelandic Lutheran pastors. Her great-grandparents emigrated to the U.S. when a volcanic eruption in Iceland forced them to flee their home.

Char's family moved to Helena when she was in fourth grade, when her father was offered a position here by Western Life Insurance. They joined St. John's Lutheran. Her mother taught Sunday School (she was Jeanne McCoskery's first-grade Sunday school teacher), her father served on the church board, and Char remembers teaching Vacation Bible School when she was in high school.

After high school and a year at Grinnell College, Char married her hometown boyfriend, and they both attended the University of Montana. Though their first child, Anne, was born during this time, Char completed a degree in History and then earned a teaching certificate. She taught sixth grade in Missoula while Ken was in law school at UM, and she was active at Immanuel Lutheran. Their son Malcolm was born while Ken served as Assistant County Attorney in Hardin.

In 1967, Ken took a job with a law firm in Great Falls. Their daughter Lorna was born there in 1970. After being divorced in 1980, Char worked for State Representative Toni Bergene. She was appointed to fill that legislative seat in 1986 when Rep. Bergene was unable to complete her term. Char served for two special sessions and one regular session.

In 1987, Char got a job in Rock Springs, WY, selling insurance for The Equitable Company. After earning her securities license, she managed the company's small business retirement investments.

Char's daughter Anne married Nashat Megalaa, an Egyptian man whose family was devout Christians in a majority Muslim country; his father was a prominent Presbyterian pastor. Sometime later, while visiting her mother in St. Paul, Char decided to take some courses in Islamic Studies at Luther Seminary. Moving back to St. Paul and living with her mother, she went on to earn a Master's Degree in that field. She was subsequently hired as an Adjunct Professor of Religion by Waldorf College and commuted from St. Paul for five years, teaching Introduction to Islam, World Religions, and Introduction to the Bible.

In 2010, Char enrolled in a PhD program at Hartford University and wrote a dissertation on the Coptic Christian liturgy. Originating in Egypt, it is perhaps the oldest liturgy in the Christian Church. However, due to a disagreement with her thesis supervisor, she was unable to complete it.

In 2013, Char decided to move back to Helena and joined Our Redeemer's. Besides serving on the church council, she is a regular participant in the contemplative prayer group, served on the Education Committee, and last year co-taught an adult series on Richard Rohr's book on the second half of life.

Char is a delight to get to know; she is a wonderful conversationalist and a genuine asset to Our Redeemer's.



Interested in volunteering for Family Promise or just finding out more about it?

Join us on **Sunday, September 21 at 1:30pm in the Community Room.**

It takes over 30 volunteers to host Family Promise families for a week. Opportunities include meal hosts, overnight hosts, set up and tear down, laundry, moving the trailer, buying weekly groceries.

Please note: Volunteers who have direct contact with guests are required to attend this brief training.


If you have any questions or to RSVP please contact Kathy Olson at 406-431-8686, kathyolson8686@gmail.com.

THANK YOU!

Your thoughts, prayers & kind expressions of sympathy brought my family comfort & peace during the passing of my daughter, Jeannie Rosin Ryan.

God bless you all,
Delores Rosin
Mic Ryan

September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
	1 Labor Day Office Closed	2
7 9:30am - Worship + KidTime 4:00pm - HARRT - Afghan Dinner - Shades of Green  Strong Bones Strong Minds campaign begins	8 12:15pm - Staff Meeting 6:00pm - Preschool Advisory Board Meeting - Conference Rm	9 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 10:30am - Knitters for Peace
14 8:30am - Worship + KidTime 9:45am - Sunday School starts 9:45am - Grief Support Group - Conference Room 9:45am - Adult Education 11:00am - Worship + KidTime 12:30pm - Executive Committee 4:00pm - Slip N' Slide Kickball	15 Voice Articles Due 12:15pm - Staff Meeting	16 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 10:00am - Touchmark Worship and Communion 10:30am - Knitters for Peace 5:30pm - Council Meeting
21 8:30am - Worship + KidTime 9:45am - Sunday School 9:45am - Sunday Gathering 9:45am - Caregiver's Support Group - Conference Room 11:00am - Worship + KidTime 1:30pm - Family Promise training - Community Room	22 12:15pm - Staff Meeting	23 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 10:30am - Knitters for Peace
28 8:30am - Worship + KidTime 9:45am - Sunday School 9:45am - Sunday Gathering 11:00am - Worship + KidTime	29 12:15pm - Staff Meeting	30 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 10:30am - Knitters for Peace 6:30pm - Hunger Team - Conference Room

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 9:00am - Men's Group - Great Room 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer - Youth Loft 7:00pm - Wine Wednesday - Hawthorne	4 9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6 6:00pm - Faith & Fries - Brewhouse Downstairs	5	6
10 9:00am - Men's Group - Great Room 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer - Youth Loft 6:00pm - Confirmation Orientation	11 9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6	12	13
17 9:00am - Men's Group - Great Room 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer - Youth Loft 1:00pm - Women's Bible Study 6:00pm - Youth Group & Confirmation	18 9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6 11:00am - Looking Ahead to Sunday	19	20
24 9:00am - Men's Group - Great Room 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer - Youth Loft 6:00pm - Youth Group & Confirmation	25 9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6 11:00am - Looking Ahead to Sunday	26 7:00pm - Women's Retreat Movie Night	27 9:00am - Women's Retreat