

Fall Programming begins

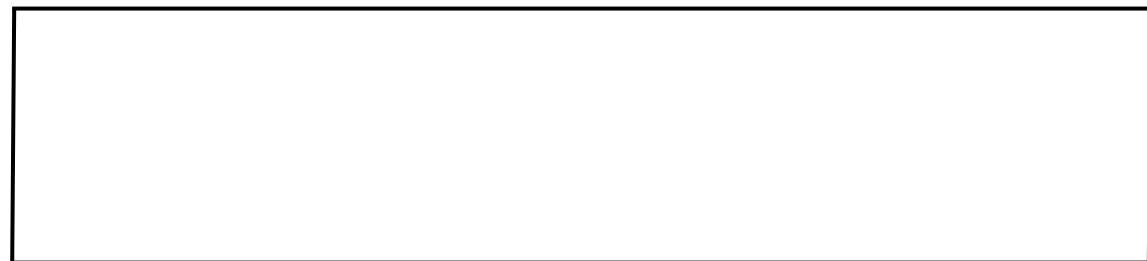
on September 13

8:30 AM – Traditional Worship

9:45 AM – Education Hour and Fellowship

11:00 AM – Contemporary Worship

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



U.S. Postage
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Helena, Montana

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

OUR REDEEMER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH THE VOICE

September 2026



It's been quite a month...

Shawn Juers' ordination on August 15.

(Their new address is 1212 Parkview Dr, Little Falls, MN 56345.)

Five baptisms. All boys!

Blessing the backpacks of 25+ kids as they head back to school.

Welcoming new members.

A pie social with 26 pies to choose from.

So many signs of growth and health.

And we haven't even begun the new programming year!

September will bring:

The choir and bells starting back up.

A return to two worship services.

Sunday School, Tween Scene and Youth Gathering offered between services.

Confirmation and Youth Group on Wednesday nights.

WELCA offering a women's retreat and planning for their Fall Bazaar.

The Creation Care Team dedicating our solar panels.

The return of the three scout troops that meet in our building.

Stewardship and the Long-Range Planning Teams back at it.

And the knitters, quilters and sewers plugging along as usual!

Sunday, September 13, is when children and youth programming gears up, and we return to two services, with traditional worship at 8:30 AM and contemporary worship at 11:00 AM. **Double the services means we need double the volunteers** to usher, greet, serve coffee, assist with communion, read the lessons, provide music, run the slides, and so much. The sign-up sheet for most of this is in the entryway, or ask Carson or Pastor Trina about how you can support our Sunday morning time together.

September always feels like we're off to the races around here. I hope to see you in worship or at one of the many other events that gather the community this fall. Blessings to you and yours, *Pastor Trina*

THANK YOU, SARAH!



It's hard to be upset about Director of Finance, Sarah Magee's upcoming retirement when you see the reason. We've been lucky to have Sarah since 2016, including the past three years as she worked for us from Arizona. But retirement and more time with this big guy (grandson Giovanni "Gio" Isaiah Fonseca) are calling her.

Sarah writes: This was a REALLY tough decision for me. Please know it had nothing to do with the job or people on staff! Our treasurers and Pastor Trina have made it easy to serve Our Redeemer's, even from Arizona. But it's time to move into retirement with my husband Mike and spend more time with family.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Lois Wynecoop and David Niklas are high school sweethearts who met in 1964 on a blind date, but later went their separate ways. They reconnected years later after the death of long-times spouses and were married here at Our Redeemer's five years ago...an answer to prayer they both agreed! Lois had a career in banking and Dave was an attorney in Helena. Between them they have five children and eight grandchildren.



Merren and Neil Marks, Wade (5) and Will (3) are familiar faces around here, with the boys just having been baptized in July and the family regulars in the Playground corner. Merren is a special education teacher at Helena High School and Neil is a detective with the Lewis & Clark County Sheriff's Office. Wade starts kindergarten this year at Jefferson and Will enjoys preschool at Rocky Mountain Preschool.

Brett Kaveney comes to us via Haley Jurecki (now Kaveney), who joined in 2022. They just got married in May in Mexico (congratulations!) and hope to get involved in some of the outward facing ministries we have at Our Redeemer's. Haley is a consultant with a mapping software company and Brett is in the insurance world.



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

Rev. 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 Bonnacarrere, Preschool Director/Teacher

Kristen@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Angie Adams, Preschool Teacher

Angie@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Liz Swenson, Preschool Teacher

Liz@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

Tuesday, September 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

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 Foltagy, Past President

attilafoltagy@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

September BIRTHDAYS

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

- 1 Shea Kitts

Carol Olmstead

2 Bob Den Herder

Ken Kolb

4 Trudy Burke

Jerry Hoover

Hunter Perry

5 Sophie Robertson

Aiden Peck

6 Kelly Elder

Dylan Grimmis

Everly Hanson

Grace McAlpin

Abigail McLane

7 Owen Hanson

Graysen Molenda

Sarah Sampson

8 Mark Barry

Sawyer Mingay

Janet Whitmoyer

9 Darby Martin

Nicole Russeff

10 Brynn Selvig

11 Lori Walter

12 Malinda Diamond

Florence Fischer

13 Mark DeBoer

Mary Williams

16 Brian Coble

Sharlene Wetherell
- 17 Kruz Green

Tamie Rasmussen

18 Kevin Rauch

Kavan Kaufman

19 Sandy Bay

Sherril Senn

20 Travis Wilfong

Reid Willard

22 Anna Connerton

Lupine Meyer

Kim Randall

23 Frank Rodemer

24 Shylah Blomquist

Lori Chase

Erik Helfert

25 Katherine Guariglia

27 Ellie Harris

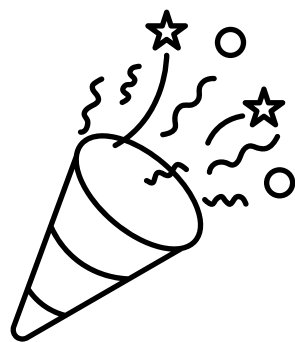
Sharon Haugen

28 Sara Juers

30 Neil Brunett

Karen Darlow

Ron Pecarina



Happy Anniversary

Celebrate with those married 40 years or more this month!

- 9/5/1965

Jim & Janice Anderson

61 years
- 9/7/1985

Tim & Laurel Orthmeyer

41 years
- 9/9/1983

Kevin & Lisa Mathews

43 years
- 9/10/1966

Rod & Marcia Olson

60 years
- 9/10/1966

Ray & Linda Read

60 years
- 9/15/1979

Dan & Mary Adams

47 years
- 9/22/1984

Richard & Lori Chase

42 years



Newly Baptized

- 7-26-26

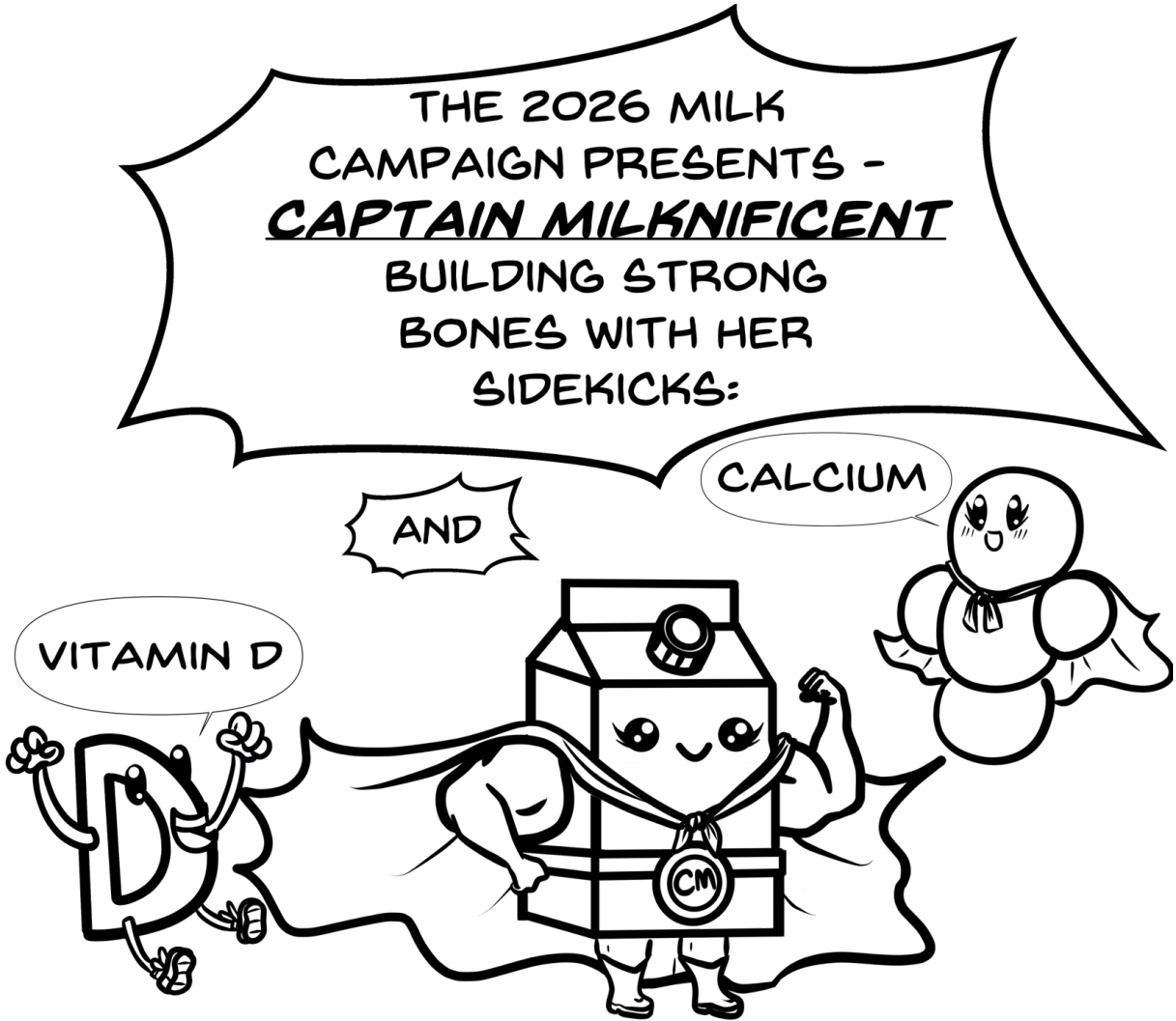
Wade Andrew Marks

William James Marks
- 8-23-26

Wyatt Travis Wilfong

Levi Loren Wilfong

Sawyer Charles Wilfong



Yes, the Milk Campaign for the Kid Packs program at Helena Food Share kicks off on Sunday, September 6 and concludes Wednesday, September 30. Our goal for this year is \$25,000. Thankfully, Helena Food Share has been able to secure milk for \$.55 a carton, the same price as 2025. Partner churches are also assisting us this fall: New Life Lutheran, St. John’s Lutheran, St. Peter’s Episcopal, First Presbyterian, and Plymouth Congregational.

The Montana Synod Hunger Team has already awarded us \$2000, and the Treacy Foundation promises us \$5000, after we raise \$10,000. Help Captain Milkificent and her sidekicks by making your donations in the way most suitable to you. You may leave small milk bottles containing cash and coins in the Helena Food Share baskets in the hallway. Checks and Venmo donations should indicate “Milk Money” on the memo line. Online donations may be made directly to “Milk Money” by using this QR code:



Children's Ministry Registration Open!

Sunday School starts on **September 13th!** Please follow the link **OR** use the following QR code to register for the 2026-2027 Children's Ministry Christian educational opportunities.

<https://forms.gle/Pe8WJEH7avhRA7DbZ>



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

Contact Liz at liz@ourredeemerlives.org, with questions.



October 31st @ 10:00-Noon

All Children and Families are welcome!

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/SvJcp4Mv8eRYWpVJ6>

Contact Liz, liz@ourredeemerlives.org

OR Steph steph@ourredeemerlives.org

with questions!



September



- 13 Family Ice Cream Social, 9:45-10:45
- 14 Sunday School & Tween Scene
- 27 Sunday School & Tween Scene

LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS

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

Our Members

Gordon Blomquist	George Hafer	Lorna Meyer	Jim Penner
Richard Carey	Noreen Johnson	Dale Mickus	Elmer Strong
Roberta Carey	Carol Kimble	Julie Mehl	
Bries Gauer	Chloe MacIntyre	Carol Olmstead	

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 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

TOUCHMARK WORSHIP

A worship and communion service will be held at Touchmark Retirement Community on **Tuesday, September 15 at 10:00 AM** led by Pastor Trina. We will meet in the forum on the second floor. Join the Our Redeemer's resident members for worship. Touchmark is located at 915 Saddle Drive.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

The grief group will meet at the Vanilla Bean at 1:30, September 17. All who are grieving are welcome. For those of you who are not sure if a group is for you please feel free to call Jane Peachey. Jane is a retired social worker and bereavement counselor. Each person finds their own path through the journey of grief. If you would like support through the process I will be there.

If you wish to speak to a leader or have any questions, please get in touch at the following number: Jane Peachey 234-567-1461



FAITH and JUSTICE in Action

"Thank you so much for being here!"

"Can I take a photo of the Bible verse on your shirt?"

"Where are you from? Do you have a website?"

"Where can I get a shirt like yours? We are from South Carolina. I would like to wear one in support of those who are being unfairly targeted."

"That is my favorite Bible verse." (Micah 6:8 "And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." is written on the back of each T-shirt)

"Thank you, thank you, thank you!"

Several members of the Faith and Justice in Action group based at Our Redeemer's walked as an ally organization in the PRIDE parade on August 8. Being met with such joy and affirmation lifted those who marched to bear witness in word and deed to the love of God in Christ to all peoples.

One young person shared their journey from a Christian faith to dabbling in satanic worship as they struggled to become the individual God created. After a frightening experience, they returned to Christianity and were pleased to be welcomed at St. Paul's Methodist in Helena.



Justice and Faith in Action embodies the statement of the ELCA Justice and Peace Ministries: "The ELCA celebrates the many ways God calls people into lives of service for the good of the community. Together, we embody biblical values of peacemaking, hospitality to strangers, care for creation and concern for those facing poverty, hunger and disease. We are called to be a church that embraces each person and confronts racial, ethnic, cultural, religious, age, gender, familial, sexual orientation, physical, personal and class barriers that often manifest themselves in unjust treatment, inequalities, exclusion and violence."

Meetings of the Faith and Justice in Action group take place the first and third Thursdays at noon. All are welcome! Contact Nelson Bock for more information at nbock6552@gmail.com or 720-838-8914.

youth ministry.

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church

Please follow the links or QR codes to register youth for the 2026-2027 ministries.

Children's Ministry Registration

<https://forms.gle/Pe8WJEH7avhRA7Db7>



Tween Scene Ministry Registration

<https://forms.gle/Pe8WJEH7avhRA7Db7>



Middle School Ministry Registration

<https://forms.gle/b5erftjU8kd2KJKM6>



High School Ministry Registration

<https://forms.gle/uPBRHicYXpYM93vq6>



All classes begin the week of September 13th. A letter with more detailed information has been sent home.

Please contact Liz, liz@ourredeemerlives.org or

Steph, steph@ourredeemerlives.org with questions.

★ YOUTH ★ ★ DATES TO KNOW! ★

GROWING IN FAITH. BUILDING COMMUNITY. HAVING FUN!




CONFIRMATION KICK OFF & ORIENTATION

6-8PM




SUNDAY MORNING EDUCATION KICK OFF & ICE CREAM SOCIAL!

9:45AM



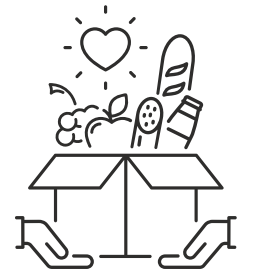

YOUTH GROUP KICKS OFF!

6-8PM

**COME AS YOU ARE.
THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU HERE!**

Questions? → STEPH@OURREDEEMERLIVES.ORG

LITTLE PANTRIES



Our Redeemer's has a proven track record of ministry to help feed local residents facing food insecurity. From the Kid Packs, working with Food Share for a Thanksgiving or Holiday food drive, pounds of produce from our garden, and the Milk Campaign, to name a few examples, our congregation has demonstrated their commitment to helping care for those in need.

Recently the Faith and Justice in Action group (F&JIA) asked to meet with the Hunger Team about another way for the congregation to reduce food insecurity in the Helena area. Little Pantries, sponsored by The Helena Waking Giant group, make easily prepared and ready to eat food products and personal care items available for quick pick up. Since the first Little Pantry began at Pure View Health Clinic, there are now several easily accessible locations around town, including the Helena Public Library. Supplies are available for anyone in need and can be picked up without any questions asked. Current demands outweigh supplies and shelves can be empty. F&JIA's goal is to support Waking Giant and others to stock these pantries.

In difficult economic times it may seem like an especially challenging time to offer any new support. Clearly, no one person or community of faith can "do it all." Beginning in September you may notice a new tote or tub with information about what is being collected and shared locally with people in need. More information will be included in upcoming bulletins, the weekly e-news or monthly Voice. Many thanks to the Hunger Team for their support as teamwork. For more information or questions feel free to contact Janet Benson 507-360-3442 or Carol Landsverk 406-920-2185.



Women’s Retreat Weekend

Come for fellowship, reflection, movement, worship, and time together.

- Dates

Friday, September 18, 7:00 – 9:00 PM
Saturday, September 19, 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM
- Location

Our Redeemer’s Lutheran Church
3580 N. Benton Ave., Helena, MT 59602
- Registration

Closes September 17 at noon
- Cost

\$20 for Saturday. Assistance is available.



- Payment

Pay on the Our Redeemer’s website: select **GIVE** in the upper right corner, choose **OTHER**, and add payment under **Women’s Retreat**. You may also bring a check to Melani in the office; she will forward it to WELCA.
- Questions

Contact Charlene Mayala at csmayala66@gmail.com or 406-465-4056.

Schedule of Events

- Friday, September 18, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Gather to socialize and watch a movie specially selected to go with the weekend theme. Snacks, popcorn, and drinks provided.
- Saturday, September 19, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Session 1 10:00 AM with Autumn Keller

Walking exercise, dictated by the weather

Lunch

Session 2 1:00 PM with Autumn Keller

Closing worship – Karen Armstrong

Registration Form

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Dietary Needs or Accessibility Requests: _____

Payment: ☐ Paid online ☐ Check enclosed/left at office ☐ Assistance requested

Please register by September 17 at noon. We look forward to welcoming you!

PRESCHOOL NEWS

We’re excited for all that’s happening at preschool! **Orientation began this week**, and we can’t wait to welcome both new and returning families as we get ready for a wonderful school year. Classes will officially begin September 8, and we have a few spots still open for 4 and 5 year old’s. Contact Kristen Bonnecarrere at kristen@ourredeemerlives.org or 406-449-2382 for more information.



Mark your calendars for our **Back to School BBQ & Open House on September 17 from 5:00–6:00 PM!** We’d love to see new and returning faces, so please come join us for an evening of food, fun, and getting to know one another. We’re looking forward to kicking off a fantastic year together!



CREATION HIKE

Creation Hikes are a fellowship opportunity to join one another in community while enjoying God’s creation. There is one more hike being offered this summer on September 6. Gretchen and Blair Krumm will lead the hike, which departs from the south church parking lot at 11:00 AM. This easy hike is open to all ages.



- SEPTEMBER 6: PRICKLY PEAR PARK

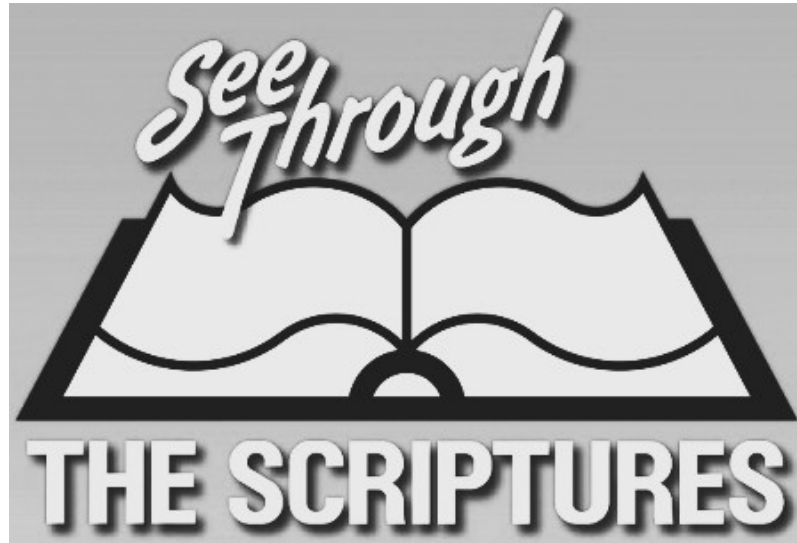
Prickly Pear Park is located at the newly remediated East Helena smelter. It is an easy, level 1.4 mile loop. No dogs are allowed in the park to protect riparian areas and birds. We will meet in the Great Room at church at 11:00 AM to arrange carpooling before departure.



THANK YOU FROM SUSAN ELHART

Thank you all so much for your help in making Rick’s “Celebration of Life” service very special. It was great to see you all again and to feel your love and support. It is very comforting to know that we still have a church family in Helena!

With Much Appreciation,
Susie Elhart & Family



**Save the Date - One Day Bible Overview Coming - Saturday, October 3
See Through The Scriptures Bible Seminar**

Pastor Brad Ulgenes will teach a six hour Bible workshop using a manual called ***See Through The Scriptures*** on **Saturday, October 3, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM**. The cost of the manual for the workshop is \$16. For an additional \$6 participants can order an optional workbook that can be used for personal study following the workshop. Free or loaner manuals will be available for those who request one. The church will provide a free sandwich lunch for those who attend.

Understanding the Bible can be daunting. ***See Through The Scriptures*** makes the Bible more accessible by taking readers step-by-step through the entire biblical narrative, especially the Old Testament, putting everything in clear context. 44 full color teaching graphics are used to help people grasp and remember the key events and concepts of the Bible, especially the three major covenants in the Old Testament and how Jesus in the New Testament fulfills those covenants. ***See Through the Scriptures*** is part of the Crossways/Divine Drama series authored by Pastor Harry Wendt.

This is the best comprehensive overview of the Bible that is offered. This workshop is perfect for students who have not studied the Bible before and will teach mature Bible readers new biblical concepts and overarching themes in the Bible to enrich their faith.

Sign up for this seminar will begin in August. Deadline for registration will be September 13. You can also email Pastor Brad at brad.ulgenes@gmail.com to register or get more information. Sorry no zoom or streaming of this workshop. Come to this Bible seminar that will give you a complete, inspiring overview of the Bible and Jesus' ministry.

Have a question about what's going on at Our Redeemer's?

The Council is happy to answer questions, take creative suggestions, and be your source of accurate information about our community. All twelve members of Council are listed with contact information on the last page of each month's Voice and pictures of them are on the bulletin board in the entryway. You have elected them to make decisions on behalf of the congregation, and they really want to hear from you. If you are pleased with something or concerned about something, reach out! One caveat, we don't accept anonymous comments; it doesn't build up the body of Christ.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council will be Tuesday, September 15. The purpose of this meeting is to set the agenda for the monthly full Council meeting. If you have things you'd like the Council to consider or would like to be on the agenda, please let council president Charlie Gorman know by September 15. The next Council meeting will be on Tuesday, September 22, at 5:30 PM.

Mary Kay Linke, Secretary



WELCA

Women of the **E**vangelical **L**utheran **C**hurch in **A**merica

FALL FESTIVAL & BAZAAR

The WELCA Fall Festival & Bazaar dates will be Saturday November 7th 9:00-1:00. We are always looking for more people to help with the bazaar so if you love baking, cooking, helping and serving then we would love to have you participate in the Fall Festival in anyway you can. Contact Charlene or any member of the WELCA board for how you could serve.

We want to let you know that the Treasures & Collectibles area will be expanding this year into the Community Room so that we can offer more merchandise and have more table space for the sale items. If you have gently used kitchen wares, home decorating items, chairs, small wooden items, lamps, pictures, jewelry or more, and would like to donate them to use, we would be interested in selling them. Not garage sale items per say, but nice items. Please call Linda Coty, Chairperson at 406-443-5857 or email her at cotyak@hotmail.com to see if your items would be suitable.

SAVE THESE DATES

Friday, October 9 - Chicken Pot Pies Preparation

Friday, October 9 we will meet in the church kitchen at 9:00 AM to make the pie shells, fill the pies, and freeze them in preparation for the Bazaar day. If you can only come for part of the day, that is great also. We will be there from about 9:00-3:00. If you love to make and roll out pie dough or just want to learn how to make pie dough, you are most welcome.

October 22 and 23 - Lefse Making and Baking - Come join us in making lefse. If you share this love with your spouse, pick one or the other of the days and both show up together to roll and bake. If you've always wanted to learn to make Lefse you are also welcome to attend and learn. Please let Charlene know what day or days you want to come play in the kitchen to help us get ready for another magnificent Bazaar happening.

CATCHING UP WITH COUNCIL

Council Highlights August 18, 2026

July 2026 Financial Reports and Recommendations

General receipts for the Ministry Fund totaled \$40,687. Building Fund donations totaled \$3,660. Notice that our income for June and July has been below our expenses has been in the weekly bulletin/announcement sheet. Please consider a gift to help us catch up as we go into the Fall. And a reminder that the sale of our property may take up to 18 months to be finalized. During this time we continue to have a monthly mortgage of \$11,000, so please consider gifts to this as well. If you have any questions about the Our Redeemer's budget, our treasurer Jan Martin is available to provide more information. Thank you to the many folks who have given extra gifts in response to our "summer slump."

Ministry Team and Committee Reports

Pastor Trina reported that the preschool has hired Liz Swenson as the three-year-old teacher for the 2026-27 school year. A word of clarification regarding this: the preschool, while technically part of Our Redeemer's for Tax ID purposes, has its own budget and supports itself through tuition and fundraising. In addition, in early 2021, the Council approved \$1051 in monthly support of this ministry. So while Liz will now be a fulltime employee of Our Redeemer's, the preschool is paying 60% of her salary. This is a decreased expense on the congregation's side, as Liz goes from 25 hours a week to 16.5 hours a week in that budget.

Liz will no longer be helping with the middle and high school ministries, so to provide coverage in that area, **David Hanson**, former Our Redeemer's youth, will be joining the Wednesday evening team, primarily helping with weekly meal organization and assisting Steph Richardson with high school programming. We are thrilled to have him join us in this 3-hour-a-week, paid position.

Pat Fischer has begun compiling photo and video content to update the Our Redeemer's website and for use with other communication projects. You may have seen him actively working during worship on Sunday, August 16. Notices of this activity are posted outside the worship space, in the PrayGround and in the weekly bulletin.

As we begin to work on the recommendations in the ***Forward in Faith*** report, we have reached out to our insurance agent to get some clarification on issues related to human resources. She confirmed that only the elected Council and Lead Pastor are insured to make decisions that have to do with human resources. If a second pastor were to be on staff and had clear supervisory responsibility for members of staff, they would also be covered. We would be out of compliance with our insurance policy if we allow others to take lead on hiring, evaluating, or removing staff without the oversight of someone who is insured. Others may serve on, for example, an interview committee for a new staff member, under the leadership of an insured person.

In response to the recommendations in the *Forward in Faith* report, the Council approved the creation of an ad hoc team to update Our Redeemer's constitution, including the items recommended by the triennial churchwide assembly, and to create a process to annually review rostered staff (clergy and deacons). Pastor Trina has reached out to Bishop Quanbeck to get his recommendation on this second item; the bishop has provided his suggested method of doing an annual review, which will be implemented in early 2027.

The Council will meet on Sunday, November 1, for an afternoon of digging into the proposed strategic plan with Dennis Trotter and members of the **Long-Range Planning** Team. Part of their work will be to begin prioritizing the fourteen recommendation in the strategic plan.

Property Issue

On Monday, August 17, the air compressor in our fire suppression system went out. The Helena Fire Marshal put us on Fire Watch, which meant we had to have someone on-site 24 hours a day, doing hourly checks of the entire building and logging it. Thanks to all who helped with this unexpected interruption. We anticipate the new air compressor will be here and installed on Monday, August 24. The cost of this repair will be at least \$5000.

HUNGER TEAM NEWS

Kid Packs Assemblies Resume in October

If you've been looking for a volunteer gig that does not take up a lot of time, Kid Packs might pique your interest. A core group of amazing volunteers gather the first three Tuesdays of each month, October-April. We begin at 4:00 p.m. at **Helena Food Share 1280 Boulder Ave** and are usually done within an hour, sometimes a bit longer depending on how many pallets we are asked to fill. Last school year this group filled over 21,000 bags! You are absolutely not obligated to show up every Tuesday. You pick the Tuesdays that work best for you. If interested, please contact Judy McMaster at judy1950@bresnan.net.



Community Garden

Thanks to everyone who has helped with the Community Garden this summer. A plentiful crop of fruits and vegetables have been delivered to Helena Food Share. And of course, the harvest doesn't end until after the first frost. Hands are still welcome there for both weeding and harvesting. And untreated grass clippings are also welcome for our continuing battle with the bindweed.

Next Hunger Team Meeting

Tuesday, September 22, 6:30 PM in Conference Room, new members are always welcome. Come and join the excitement!



Tomato Fest

Our Redeemer's will be hosting its second Tomato Fest on Sunday, September 20, 3:00 - 5:00 PM. The event offers sample plates of 50-100 varieties of predominately heirloom tomatoes grown in the Helena Valley. With Sunflower Bakery's sourdough bread to accompany the tomatoes, you'll be able to assemble your favorite tomato sandwich.

And there's more, of course: Informational booths on sustainable food sources, music, and lots of information on saving tomato seeds and tomato-growing tips.

Proceeds will benefit Our Redeemer's Community Garden and Carroll College's Food Share outreach. Each spring Carroll College students start several thousand plants for Helena Food Share. Many of them are planted in Our Redeemer's community garden. A group of Carroll students also formed a Lifestyle Medicine Interest Group in the fall of 2025. This group plans, prepares, and serves whole food dinners in Helena Food Share's Community Room.

Tickets will be \$20 per adult and \$18 for kids under 18 years of age. Come join the fun for this worthwhile community event.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:00am - Quilting for LWR - CR5-6 10:30am - Knitters for Peace - 12:30pm - Staff Meeting	2 9:00am - Men's Group-Great Rm 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer Youth Loft	3 9:30am - Sew in Love - CR5-6 11:00am - Pastor's Bible Study - Conf. Rm 12:00pm - Faith & Justice - CR5-6	4	5
6 9:30am - Worship + KidTime 11:00am - Creation Hike	7 * HAPPY * LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	8 9:00am - Quilting for LWR - CR5-6 10:30am - Knitters for Peace - 12:30pm - Staff Meeting	9 9:00am - Men's Group-Great Rm 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer Youth Loft 6:00pm - Confirmation Orientation	10 9:30am - Sew in Love - CR5-6 11:00am - Pastor's Bible Study - Conf. Rm	11	12
13 8:30am - Worship + KidTime 9:45am - Family Ice Cream Social Education Kick Off 11:00am - Worship + KidTime	14 6:00pm - Preschool Advisory Board Mtg - Conf. Rm	15 <i>VOICE ARTICLES DUE!</i> 9:00am - Quilting for LWR - CR5-6 10:00am - Touchmark Service 10:30am - Knitters for Peace 12:30pm - Staff Meeting 5:30pm - Executive Council Mtg Conference Room	16 9:00am - Men's Group-Great Rm 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer Youth Loft 1:00pm - WELCA Bible Study 6:00pm - Confirmation Class 6:00pm - Youth Group	17 9:30am - Sew in Love - CR5-6 11:00am - Pastor's Bible Study - Conf. Rm 12:00pm - Faith & Justice - CR5-6 1:30pm - Grief Group @ The Vanilla Bean 5:00pm - Preschool Open House	18 7:00 - 9:00pm - Women's Retreat	19 9:30am - Women's Retreat
20 8:30am - Worship + KidTime 9:45am - Education Hr and Fellowship 11:00am - Worship + KidTime 3:00pm - Tomato Fest 	21	22 <i>Autumn</i> 9:00am - Quilting for LWR - CR5-6 10:30am - Knitters for Peace 12:30pm - Staff Meeting 5:30pm - Council Mtg Sewing Room 6:30pm - Hunger Team Mtg	23 9:00am - Men's Group-Great Rm 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer Youth Loft 6:00pm - Confirmation Class 6:00pm - Youth Group	24 9:30am - Sew in Love - CR5-6 No Pastor's Bible Study Today	25	26
27 8:30am - Worship + KidTime 9:45am - Solar Panel Dedication 9:45am - Education Hr and Fellowship 11:00am - Worship + KidTime	28	29 9:00am - Quilting for LWR - CR5-6 10:30am - Knitters for Peace 12:30pm - Staff Meeting	30 9:00am - Men's Group-Great Rm 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer Youth Loft 6:00pm - Confirmation Class 6:00pm - Youth Group			