



# OUR REDEEMER'S

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### THE VOICE

September 2024



#### Welcome to Fall 2024!

#### Update on staffing

Last year at this time I was introducing **Steph Richardson** as our new Interim Director of Youth Ministry. I'm pleased to announce that she's agreed to remove that word *interim* and be with us permanently. Three weeks with our kids at FLBC this summer put her over the top, as she joyfully watched them grow in faith and self-confidence. Who wouldn't want to be a part of that permanently?

We formally thanked **Kris Thatcher** in worship on August 25 for serving as Interim Preschool Director for two years. The siren call of other preschoolers (her grandchildren!) is luring her and Mark to Billings. We welcome **Brenda Stoltz** as the new Preschool Director. Brenda comes with many years of teaching under her belt and administrative experience as a middle school principal. We also have a new teacher for the three-year-olds, **Kristin Sapp**, who's had two children go through the preschool, served on the Preschool Advisory Board, and helped supervise Lunch Bunch last year. We are pleased that **Marie Grissom** returns as the four-year-old teacher and **Wendy Vukonich** as the pre-K teacher. We will be blessing this group in worship on September 1 as they begin the ministry of another school year.

**Jason Callon** continues as our Director of Worship and Music in a part-time capacity, as he balances this with pursuing a graduate degree in mental health counseling. **Liz Swenson**, Director of Children and Family Ministry, manages an ever-growing program for those birth to grade 5, *and* has been helping with confirmation the past two years as we seek a new Associate Pastor. **Lori Walter** (office), **Sarah Magee** (finances), **Linda Keim** (organist), and **David McHaley** (custodian) all continue to be a joy to work with and I always appreciate their professionalism and flexibility.

#### Update on Fall programming

**Sunday, September 15** is our big fall kickoff. The new sound system will debut that morning, as we return to worship at 8:30am and 11:00am. Sunday School for ages 3-grade 5 is between services, with Slip N Slide kickball and ice cream sundaes for all our children and youth that afternoon at 4:00pm.

**Confirmation and Youth Group** will begin on Wednesday, September 18. Dinner is offered to our middle and high school students at 6:00pm, a short worship in the Youth Loft follows, and then middle and high school students meet separately 6:30 to 8:00pm. As we did last year, confirmation is offered both Wednesday and Sunday, with the same lesson taught both times. Dennis Trotter is taking lead on teaching, assisted by Liz and Steph. They will be focusing on the book of Acts and the life of the young Christian church this year, with some catechism sprinkled in (Lord's Prayer and Apostles' Creed).

There will be **Adult Education offerings** from the Creation Care Team on September 22 and 29, and the Hunger Team is sponsoring a display on unhoused individuals in Helena in October, with the Homeless in Helena movie on October 6 and a discussion of the book *Rough Sleepers* by Tracy Kidder on October 13.

#### Update on how you can help (ministry opportunities)

Staff continues to work hard to provide engaging programming for our community, and as we await the filling of the Associate Pastor position, we could use some help:

- **Children and Family Ministry** is experiencing significant growth and needs some assistance with KidTime and Sunday School. Liz will provide you with all materials and training. For more information, reach out to her at [Liz@OurRedeemerLives.org](mailto:Liz@OurRedeemerLives.org).
- **Youth Ministry** is looking for adults to join with the youth group Wednesday night from 6:00 to 8:00pm. Help prepare the occasional meal or join them for a time of conversation and fellowship. Reach out to Steph at [Steph@OurRedeemerLives.org](mailto:Steph@OurRedeemerLives.org) for more information.

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Helena, Montana



- The **Preschool** would love some extra hands during Lunch Bunch, when some of the students stay and eat their lunch here at Our Redeemer's. Skills needed are the ability to open milk cartoons and juice boxes, an interest in hearing about pets and soccer games, and patience with a busy environment! Lunch Bunch is Monday to Thursday from 11:00am to 12:30pm, and just coming occasionally is welcome. For more information, reach out to Brenda at [Brenda@OurRedeemerLives.org](mailto:Brenda@OurRedeemerLives.org).
- There is always need in our **Worship** life together! We could use help with ushers, readers, and communion servers on a weekly basis. We also need a few folks to be trained on managing the slides and making sure we get the live-stream up and running for those who join us from afar. And if you'd like to offer some special music, that is always welcome. Reach out to Jason at [Jason@OurRedeemerLives.org](mailto:Jason@OurRedeemerLives.org).
- The **Altar Guild** is the group who prepares our worship space and sets up for communion each week. Lisa Williams-Mathews is willing to train you for occasional service in this area, and Kim Randall will happily share the recipe used to bake the bread if you have those skills. Reach out to Lori Walter in the office for more information at [LoriW@OurRedeemerLives.org](mailto:LoriW@OurRedeemerLives.org).
- Our first quarterly **Stewardship Work Day** will take place on Saturday, September 28. Bring your time and your talents, as we tackle a variety of projects (cleaning, repairs, painting, staining, grounds maintenance). Come from 10:00am - 12:00pm or 1:00-3:00pm and join with others to take care of our building and grounds. Reach out to Jerry Hoover ([jerry.r.hoover@gmail.com](mailto:jerry.r.hoover@gmail.com)) for more information.

Here's to a full and exciting beginning to the programming year. Blessings as we worship, learn, serve, and play together as Christ's people in this place. *Pastor Trina*



A candidate for the Associate Pastor position was recently in Helena and met with the Council, staff and the Call Committee for two days of introductions and interviewing. The candidate was a very good fit for our needs, having lots of experience with worship, preaching, teaching all ages, and pastoral care. The Call Committee voted unanimously to put him forward and share with the congregation information about this candidate, but upon reflection, the candidate didn't feel the fit was good for him, his husband and their three children. This was a great disappointment to the Call Committee, who has now invested 18 months in trying to find someone to join us in ministry. They will continue the search; please continue to hold them in prayer.

Adult Education offerings from the Creation Care Team

- Join us at 9:45am in the Community Room.
- September 22 - viewing and discussion of documentary video "The Story Of Plastic".
- September 29 - Caleb Koebble from Montana Interfaith Power and Light will share about financial incentives and financing options for residential solar power.

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

**Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church**

3580 N Benton Ave  
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**Ministry Team**

Ministers: **All the People of God**

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**Jason Callon, Director of Worship and Music**  
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**Steph Richardson, Director of Youth Ministry**  
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**Liz Swenson, Director of Children and Family Ministry**  
[Liz@OurRedeemerLives.Org](mailto:Liz@OurRedeemerLives.Org)

**Linda Keim, Organist**

**David McHaley, Custodian**

**Carol Will, Deacon**

**Lori Bigwood-Pecarina, Lay Pastoral Associate**

**Jan Martin, Lay Pastoral Associate**

**Jeff Martin, Lay Pastoral Associate**

**Kevin Mathews, Lay Pastoral Associate**

**Lisa Williams-Mathews, Lay Pastoral Associate**

**Kristine Thatcher, Interim Preschool Director**  
[Kris@OurRedeemerLives.Org](mailto:Kris@OurRedeemerLives.Org)

**Wendy Vukonich, Preschool Teacher**  
[Wendy@OurRedeemerLives.Org](mailto:Wendy@OurRedeemerLives.Org)

**Marie Grissom, Preschool Teacher**  
[Marie@OurRedeemerLives.Org](mailto:Marie@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**  
Sunday, September 15 at 5:00pm  
[LoriW@OurRedeemerLives.Org](mailto: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:

**Ingrid Childress, President**  
[president@ourredeemerlives.org](mailto:president@ourredeemerlives.org)  
406-431-3344  
Liaison: Facilities and Administration

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[mtmoseman@hotmail.com](mailto:mtmoseman@hotmail.com)  
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Liaison: Finance

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[grizlinke@gmail.com](mailto:grizlinke@gmail.com)  
406-465-1099  
Liaison: Outreach





September Birthdays!

Remember our friends in Christ with a Birthday prayer!

- 1 Carol Olmstead

2 Bob Den Herder

Ken Kolb

4 Trudy Burke

Jerry Hoover

Hunter Perry

Ruth Straley

5 Sophie Robertson

6 Kelly Elder

Dylan Grimmis

Grace McAlpin

Abigail McLane

7 Kari DesRosier

Owen Hanson

Graysen Molenda

Sarah Sampson
- 8 Mark Barry

Sawyer Mingay

Jake West

Janet Whitmoyer

9 Brien Alberts

Joslyn Buckley

Darby Martin

10 Ryan Magee

Brynn Selvig

11 Lori Walter

12 Malinda Diamond

Bodie Taflan

13 Mark DeBoer

Mary Williams

15 Haley Horn

Liv Perry

16 Brian Coble
- Nicholas Swenson

Sharlene Wetherell

17 Kruz Green

Tami Rasmussen

18 Declan Dubois

Kavan Kaufman

Kevin Rauch

19 Sandy Bay

Connie Carlson

Sherril Senn

20 Claire Lake

Reid Willard

22 Anna Connerton

Lupine Meyer

Kim Randall

23 Cindy Rand

24 Shylah Blomquist
- Lori Chase

Erik Helfert

Sarah Liston

25 Katherine Guariglia

26 Chad Beley

Annie Chase

27 Ellie Harris

Sharon Haugen

Tanner Reddig

28 Del Carroll

Sara Juers

Laurie Simms

30 Neil Brunett

Karen Darlow

Mike Magee

Ron Pecarina

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 90)

231 Sheps Rd

Townsend, MT 59644



Happy Anniversary

Celebrate with those married 40 years

Richard & Lori Chase	9/22/1984	40 Years
Kevin & Lisa Mathews	9/9/1983	41 Years
Dan & Mary Adams	9/15/1979	45 years
Ray & Linda Read	9/10/1966	58 years
Jim & Janice Anderson	9/5/1965	59 years
Bill & Ruth Straley	9/3/1961	63 years

HELENA TOMATO FEST

- SAMPLE 50+ HEIRLOOM TOMATO VARIETIES GROWN ORGANICALLY IN THE HELENA VALLEY
- SAVOR TOMATO SANDWICHES FEATURING SOURDOUGH BREAD FROM SUNFLOWER BAKERY
- ENJOY LIVE MUSIC AND TOMATO TRIVIA
- LEARN HOW TO SAVE YOUR OWN TOMATO SEEDS

SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

4-7 PM

OUR REDEEMER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
3580 N BENTON AVE

TICKETS \$20

- AVAILABLE AT HELENA FARMERS MARKET ON FULLER AVE (HILL PARK)
- ALSO SUNDAYS SEPTEMBER 15 AND 22 AT OUR REDEEMER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, 9:00-10:30A AND 12:00-12:30P

PROCEEDS BENEFIT HELENA FOOD SHARE, BY SUPPORTING THE FOOD SHARE GARDEN AT OUR REDEEMER'S CHURCH AND THE GARDENING AND COMMUNITY HEALTH CLASS AT CARROLL COLLEGE, WHICH GROWS PLANTS FOR FOOD SHARE

Happy Fall!

I'm Brenda Stoltz, the new director of the Our Redeemer's Lutheran Preschool. I was in the public school system for 28 years as a teacher, vice principal, and principal. I am so excited to return to education after a two-year stint at Carroll College. I have three wonderful children, two darling grandboys, and a sweet Schnauzer.

I am searching for some amazing people that could help with subbing at our preschool. The pay is approximately \$80 (depending on the age of students) and if coverage is for a full or part day.

The three teachers, Wendy Vukonich (PreK), Marie Grissom (4s), and Kristen Sapp (3s), have step-by-step lesson plans that are engaging, fun, and educational. A substitute can slide right in to assist in maintaining consistency in preschool effectiveness.

Sometimes last-minute illness or injury can occur, but substitutes will be notified as soon as possible to see if coverage can be made.

If you or someone you know is a little interested or are very interested, please contact me at [brenda@ourredeemerlives.org](mailto:brenda@ourredeemerlives.org) or 406-442-7842 ext. 20 or my cell 406-202-0234.



CAREGIVER'S SUPPORT GROUP

A small group of people providing care and support for loved ones meets monthly at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church. We will meet on September 22, the FOURTH Sunday at 9:45am. Companionship for your loved one will be available during the meeting. Jane Peachey and Lori Bigwood-Pecarina co-lead the group.



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP



The grief group will meet Sunday September 8 in the conference room after service. We grieve because we love. Life changes or other losses can cause an upsurge of grief. Our group walks our journey beside each other, knowing our grief is unique. We provide a safe place to think through and explore the confusing walks we are on.

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 OR Jane Peachey 234-567-1461

Touchmark Worship Services

Sharlene Kolb and Lori Bigwood-Pecarina LPA will be leading worship and communion services at Touchmark Retirement home on Tuesday, September 17 at 10:00am. We will gather in the Forum on the second floor. All are welcome to join our family at Touchmark which is located at 915 Saddle Drive.

Thanks to everyone who has baked communion bread over the summer:

Audrey Schubring

Kim Randall

Lori Chase

Kristi Antosh

Mary Robertson

Lisa Williams-Mathews



We appreciate your devotion to this ministry. We will need at least one or two new people to continue this ministry. If you, or anyone you know, is interested, please send me an e-mail, or give me a text/call. The commitment would be to bake communion bread every two months, for the school year. A recipe is provided, and personal instruction is available. Thanks, Kim Randall, 406-438-6465 or [Kimr9462@gmail.com](mailto:Kimr9462@gmail.com)

## Children's Ministry Registration Open!

Please follow the link **OR** use the following QR code to register for the 2024-2025 Children's Ministry Christian educational opportunities.

<https://forms.gle/yK1e1bBBCjapQU1TA>



Join Us

**October 26th @ 1:00-3:00PM**

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/sy6Lq93uKfGtdKkU7>



## KidTime Leader Needed!

⇒ We are in need of a KidTime leader for the 2024-2025 school year, to lead lessons on one Sunday each month. All lessons are prepared for you!

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



## September

- 15 Sunday School - Welcome Games
- 15 Slip N Slide Kickball Kickoff Night @ 4:00pm
- 22 Sunday School - David Goliath
- 29 Sunday School - David Goliath

## Stewardship Work Day @ ORLC

**When:** September 28th @ 10:00am - 12:00pm or  
1:00pm - 3:00pm

**Who:** All ages—bring the whole family!

**What:** Bring some work gloves, and join us to pull weeds, rake leaves and pick up garbage 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

Richard Carey  
Roberta Carey  
Jim Haubein

Noreen Johnson  
Carol Kimble  
Chloe MacIntyre

Nikki MacMillan  
Dale Mickus  
Lorna Meyer

Julie Mehl  
Laurie Simms  
Ruth Straley

A new year means updating our prayer list. Please reach out to Lori Walter with prayer requests.  
[LoriW@OurRedeemerLives.org](mailto:LoriW@OurRedeemerLives.org) or 406-442-7842

### Our Family and Friends

**Luke Brown** (brother of Charlie Brown)  
**Sawyer Ewan** (cousin of Mary & Mark Robertson)  
**Danny McCaughan** (nephew of Lori & Dave Swenson)  
**Scott Linke** (brother of Craig Linke)  
**Ron Paulson** (former member)  
**Jacki Riley** (sister of Lori Walter)

### Our Seminarians

Shawn, Sara, Addie & Kaden Juers

### Our Family and Friends Serving in the Military

Brandon Bach  
Kyle Begger  
Erin DenHerder  
Kellan Elder  
Travis Elder  
Micah Emmons  
Jessilyn Emmons  
Grant Gagnon  
Adam Guay

Ryan Girard  
Austin Grieve  
Travis Gronley  
Charlie Heidbreder  
Roger Henschel  
Paul Horst  
Anela Hemry  
Wade Hemry  
Cody Johnson

Colton Johnson  
Chance McDowell  
Kent McGowan  
Dean McLain  
Sawyer Linke  
Erin Mills  
Brian Neal  
Keith Nordquist  
Chris Oelkers

Scott Pocha  
Tanner Reddig  
Cody Stipcich  
Darrell Stipcich  
Victoria Stipcich  
Tait Strom  
Andrew Zimmer

## Stewardship Updates

Thanks to everyone who gave to our two recent campaigns, *Every Kid to Camp in 2024* and the *New Sound System*. On Sunday, August 25, you heard from the kids themselves about the impact of the gifts to go to camp. That campaign raised \$24,706. We had 24 kids go to FLBC, and two go to Christikon, we spent \$10,400, so we have a nice pot to help kids next summer.

The Sound System Campaign raised \$46,001 and the new system will be installed the week of September 9, just in time for our fall programming and the return to two worship services on September 15.

Thank you for being so generous with your treasures, and now we'd like to invite you to be generous with your time and talents too. The Stewardship Committee and the Campus Care Team (those who take care of our building and grounds) will be holding quarterly **Stewardship Work Days**, the first of which will be on Saturday, September 28. Come from 10-12 or 1-3 and join with others to tackle a long list of projects (cleaning, repairs, painting, staining, grounds maintenance).



My boys go on a lot of long camping trips with the scouts, but this was special being able to be with them for a change. I think they were probably surprised how well Mom survived roughing it for the week. I would do

Thank you for all that you do to support the youth ministries. You, the members of Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, made this wonderful experience immersed in Christianity available to these children and families. No one was left missing out because of economic barriers. The memories and friendships gained will remain with them long after the summer camps have ended, and I am ever grateful to have been included in the journey.

# HUNGER TEAM NEWS

## In the Garden

Come visit the garden and commune with the hens! It is harvest time. The squash are plumping; tomatoes are blushing; beets, onions, and carrots are swelling out of the ground; and beans need picking! This is YOUR community garden, offering precious soil to gardeners on one side, and growing food for Food Share on the other. Last year the garden produced 2000 pounds of produce. If you would like to join this mission by helping with harvest, contact Vicki Downhour at 406-465-2197.

**Grass clippings** are used as mulch to retain moisture and suppress weeds. Please don't throw yours in the trash! We are happy to take them! Please drop off loose clippings south of the chicken coop-there are signs. Bagged clippings can be left by the garden gate. Only herbicide-free clippings, please. Thank you for the various implements donated to the garden, as well as monetary donations. They are SO appreciated!

## Focus on Homelessness

The Hunger Team will be presenting issues regarding unsheltered individuals during the first two Sundays in October. In preparation for this emphasis, some of you may be interested in reading Tracy Kidder's book, *Rough Sleepers*. The book highlights the work of Jim O'Connell and Boston General Hospital as they focus on providing health and medical services for Boston's homeless population. It has been described as **"The powerful story of an inspiring doctor who made a difference, by helping to create a program to care for Boston's homeless community—by the Pulitzer Prize-winning, New York Times bestselling author of Mountains Beyond Mountains."** A discussion of the book will take place on Sunday, October 13, between services. A few copies of the book are available in the church office. Or you may borrow from the library or purchase your own copy. Join us for a thought-provoking and inspiring discussion of the many issues faced by those struggling with homelessness.

## Thanks for All the Milk

As this newsletter goes to print, we don't have the final figures for the milk campaign, which concluded on August 31. Helena Food Share and the Hunger Team express extreme gratitude to everyone who contributed to this campaign. In addition to your individual contributions, the Hunger Team designated the second quarter earnings from the Kendra Wilde Hunger Endowment Fund (\$319.50) to the summer milk campaign. Stay tuned for a further update and the date for the presentation of THE BIG CHECK to Helena Food Share for the kid packs program. All of you make a huge difference in the lives of children in our community.

## Tomato Fest

Love tomatoes? See the full-page notice in this newsletter about the Tomato Fest scheduled for Sunday, September 22, 4:00-7:00pm. Get your tickets between worship services on September 15 or 22 and join in the fun as you help with this fundraiser to provide more services for our community garden and its cooperation with Carroll College.

## Thank You for Welcoming Family Promise Guests

Thank you for all the giving hearts and hands that welcomed our Family Promise guests the week of August 18-25. Your willingness to provide overnight assistance, meals, and heavy lifting every quarter is greatly appreciated. As Family Promise continues to grow and change, we are always facing new and promising challenges. Your willingness to adapt to these ever-growing needs is a credit to your faith and flexibility. Thank you, all you kind spirits!

## Women's Retreat - October 4-5

We will be holding this event at Our Redeemer's.

Join us Friday, October 4 for a time of fellowship and a movie from 7:00 - 9:00pm.

Join us Saturday, October 5 from 10:00am - 3:00pm for sessions on Women who impacted the church over the centuries, lunch, an art project, and worship. Contact Jan Martin at 406-459-3339 to help.

Follow the link to register. <https://forms.gle/oWiGdUADQ4Du5qh39>

## Thank you for sending us to camp!

My name is **Andrew Callon** and I am 12 years old. I went to Flathead Luthren Bible Camp this summer and I had a good time. Thank you for your support in sending me to camp!

I particapted in the theater camp where I did several acting warm-ups, and put on a theatrical production. I was a great actor.

While at camp, I learned to be myself. This made me feel relieved, because I could let myself go from always being a proper gentlemen and just being silly.

The highlight of my week was putting on the Passion play. The Passion play is the reenactment of Jesus' last week of life. I am very good at acting.

Thanks for supporting my faith journey and sending me to camp!

My name is **Isaac Callon**. I'm 10 years old and I went to Flathead Luthruen Bible Camp this summer and I had a good time thank u for your support in sending me to camp I partisipated in basketball camp where I learned a lot of stuff about basketball I got better at basketball learned to shoot a basketball properly I learned to do lay ups properly my favroit part was going to the cantine I got lots of stuff there the highlight of my week was making a half court shot I swished it thank you for supporting my faith journey and sending me to camp.

My name is **Natalie Byrne**. My favorite part of camp was swimming without a life jacket. I liked where FLBC moved the trampoline to this year so we could jump off. It was fun to swim around in the lake, learning about God and do a lot of stuff. Thank you for helping kids get to camp.

My name is **Ryan Griffeth** and I am 14 years old. I went to Flathead Lutheran Bible camp this summer in July and had great time. Thank you so much for your support in sending me to camp.

I participated in the rafting camp where I had a wonderful trip floating the North Fork of the Flathead River with newfound friends.

While at camp, I learned how to float safely outside of the raft and not get my feet entrapped in rocks and drowned. It was fun floating down the rapids in the life jacket and then climbing back onto the island back to the start of the rapids to do it again.

My favorite part about camp was rafting down the river and sliding on the raft like a slip and slide.

A highlight of my week was getting off the rafts to set up camp at the different sites. We cooked our meals, had campfires, and the counselors and I set up "hotel hammock" in the trees instead of sleeping in a tent like the others.

It was great to meet new friends from Washington, Eastern Montana, and Oregon. We are all keeping in contact to possibly try to meet at camp next year.

Thank you for supporting our youth group to be able to go on these trips.

My name is **Josh Griffeth** and I am 15 years old. I went to Flathead Lutheran Bible camp this summer in July and had a blast. Thank you so much for raising the money to send me to camp.

I participated in the rafting trip where we rafted on the border of Glacier National Park for 44 miles, with strangers that we became closer with throughout the trip.

My favorite part of the trip was being on the water, doing minute mysteries and solving riddles with the group, and riding the rapids. We also flipped the rafts and used them as slip and slides and diving boards into the river.

The highlight of the whole trip for me was floating the river with life jackets at each of the campsites and the great views as well.

My least favorite part of the trip was almost choking on a noodle and the BBB, an acronym that I probably shouldn't elaborate on but if you know, you know!

This was my first time overnight rafting and it was an amazing experience. I couldn't have gone without your support in sending me to camp. Thank you for everything you did to raise the money for the youth group to participate in this trip.

My name is **Tonya Griffeth**, and I was a somewhat unexpected addition to this journey! When I originally heard about the rafting trip, I was excited for the boys (Josh and Ryan) and what they were going to experience, then, I became somewhat jealous!!! I jokingly told Steph if they needed a chaperone, to call me!

When I received the flyer to sign up for the Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp rafting trip, I had to stop for a moment when I saw the cost of the trip. I immediately had to rethink my telling the boys they could attend. I had to double check with Steph after the boys said there was no cost for the trip except for their registration fee. I couldn't wrap my brain around the fact that their trip was taken care of by the church. I once again moved forward on registration and waited for their excursion to arrive.

Not long before the trip happened, Steph called me to see if I was serious about my chaperoning comment. I was serious for sure but had to get myself together as well as work and home life expectations completed before leaving. I was able to accomplish that and join the youth kiddos on their trip to FLBC.



Did You Know?

Elaine Heen was born and raised in Tioga, ND. She married and followed her husband's military career for several years. Three daughters joined them along the way. After being invited by a friend, she joined Our Redeemer's Lutheran when they landed in Helena in 1961. (They were made so welcome by Rev. Gronneberg and friends that they never went to another church). She worked for Lewis and Clark County for several years, and attended Carroll College, earning a degree in elementary education in 1973. She taught fourth grade in the public school system for 14 years. (Smith, Ray Bjork, and Hawthorne). After teaching school, she worked for H & R Block for 10 years. In the meantime, she was active as a Sunday school teacher and money counter, serving on the Church Council and other roles. She says she didn't know why God miraculously cured her of cancer in 1981, but in hindsight, we can all see why! He had plans for her!



Elaine's daughter Charlene and son-in-law Dr. Greg Stewart were involved in mission work in Guatemala under the umbrella of Missionary Ventures, a Canadian group. In 1999, they asked her to join them in Guatemala and help with the twin Guatemala boys they were adopting there. She made very rapid arrangements and flew out of Helena the very next day! (very impressive for someone 66 years of age). The next year, she again joined them for another short-term mission and invited a couple from Our Redeemers to go along as part of a construction team working to build a church/pastoral training center. They were so inspired and excited when they returned that they helped her recruit and energize a much larger crew for the next year, and the next, and the next. . . ! Elaine's leadership led to the formation of mission groups every year for **ten years**, doing construction work and several including medical clinics. Her inspiring work led to the recruitment of a much larger crew each year, with the congregation raising \$10,000 or more annually to purchase building materials and sending hundreds of pounds of clothing, shoes, medicines, Bibles, etc., in large hockey bags along with the volunteers. The work included building churches, feeding centers, an alcohol rehab center and a Bible camp in the mountains. Every volunteer returned with a life changed by their experiences. Those missions led to incorporating the US Mission Builders (a cadre of retired volunteers with construction experience) in the construction of our current facility. They spent 10 months living and working with us. We learned the joys of working together to further God's kingdom!

This quiet lady has made such a far-reaching difference in the world! She continued to be a Sunday morning money counter for many more years. She currently lives at Touchmark, and she attends services through technology since she no longer drives. (She voluntarily sold her car 2 years ago.) Though we don't see her as often, her faithfulness lives on and inspires!

Contemplative Prayer Retreat

- Two opportunities to participate in a timeless, Christ-centered contemplative journey for uncertain times:
- ♦ At FLBC Friday evening **September 20** through Sunday noon **September 22**, or
- ♦ At The **Episcopal Church's Camp Marshal** (near Polson) Tuesday evening **September 24** through Thursday noon **September 26**.

To live is to change. Life is a repeating cycle of order, disorder, reordering...life, death, resurrection. Only God's love, demonstrated most definitively through Christ, is constant. This retreat will help you learn and develop tools for connecting with greater awareness to that immovable, grounding love - a love that allows us to experience change with hope, grace, and even joy!

Both individually and within a safe community of fellow seekers, retreatants may engage in Benedictine-inspired Christian contemplative practices of spoken prayer, Lectio Divina (praying Scripture), centering prayer, chant, walking meditation, sacred drawing/journaling, and contemplative corporate worship. Through cycles of teaching and reflection, movement and rest, conversation, and silence, we hope to provide a holy mixture of experiences that will both stretch and soothe.

Choose the time and location that suits you best. Both retreats will be facilitated by the Rev. Valerie Webster, Episcopal Diocese of MT, and ELCA Lay Pastoral Associate (LPA) Dick Deschamps with music led by ELCA LPAs Lisa and Kevin Mathews. The following QR codes will take you to websites with detailed information and registration forms for the respective retreats. You can also contact Kevin (406.465.1839) or Lisa (406.465.5580) if you have questions.

Fall Bazaar 2024

The Fall Festival and Bazaar is scheduled for Saturday, November 2 here at Our Redeemer's. Activity has begun to organize our event and gather volunteers to assist us in making our 2024 event spectacular. Where do we need your assistance? Just read on and fill out this form and drop it in the offering plate. Please check the areas where you can be of help to WELCA.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteers to head up a Soup Luncheon
- \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteers to help the day of our event (Sat/Nov 2)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Donate Homemade Bake Goods for our Bake sale tables
- \_\_\_\_\_ Donate Homemade Items to sell—Crafts, Artwork, Jewelry, Handmade items  
(What is it that you make that you could be donate to this event?)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Make Homemade Cinnamon Rolls
- \_\_\_\_\_ Donations of Collectible items
- \_\_\_\_\_ Donation of a Gift Basket for Silent Auction
- \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer to make Lefse at baking day

We have lots of ways for you to assist with this fun and festive event at our church. Please consider giving us a hand.

More information: Call Lori at 406-442-7842



"We know the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now." Romans 8:22

With the increasing incidence of natural disasters due to the changing climate, we know we are not immune, even as we see others affected by hurricanes, flooding, etc. How can we prepare for such disasters as forest fires in our area, create household climate resilience, and protect our finances?

Green American magazine's Spring 2024 issue gives some helpful resources:

1. [www.resilience.climate.gov](http://www.resilience.climate.gov) helps us understand climate risks in our area
2. [www.toolkit.climate.gov](http://www.toolkit.climate.gov) gives guidance for boosting climate readiness skills

Other suggestions include:

1. Make a plan - See [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)
2. Review your property insurance – does it cover fire, floods, etc.
3. Save money by using the Inflation Reduction Act, which has incentives for installing solar panels or upgrading heating and cooling systems - See [www.greenamerica.org/home-improvement](http://www.greenamerica.org/home-improvement)
4. Seek further support and assistance through Disaster Assistance, FEMA, US Small Business Administration, HUD Disaster Recovery

Creation Care contacts: Nelson Bock at [Nbock6552@gmail.com](mailto:Nbock6552@gmail.com) or Elaine Ulgenes at [Elaineulge@yahoo.com](mailto:Elaineulge@yahoo.com)



September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>  Labor Day - Office Closed	<b>3</b>  9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 11:00am - Knitters for Peace
<b>8</b>  9:30am - Summer Worship + KidTime 10:45am - Grief Support Group - Conference Rm	<b>9</b>  10:00am - Staff Meeting 6:00pm - Preschool Advisory Board Meeting - Conference Rm  ~~~~~ Sound System Installation - September 9 - 14 ~~~~~	<b>10</b>  9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 10:00am - WELCA Board - Small Conference Room 11:00am - Knitters for Peace 6:30pm - Executive Committee meeting - Conference Rm
<b>15</b>  Voice Articles Due  8:30am - Worship + KidTime 9:45am - Sunday School 11:00am - Worship + KidTime 4:00pm - Slip N Slide Kickball and Sundaes	<b>16</b>  10:00am - Staff Meeting	<b>17</b>  9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 10:00am - Touchmark Worship and Communion 11:00am - Knitters for Peace 5:30pm - Council Meeting - Community Room
<b>22</b>  8:30am - Worship + KidTime 9:45am - Creation Care Adult Ed- Community Room 9:45am - Sunday School 9:45am - Confirmation - Loft 9:45am - Care Givers Support Group - Conference Room 11:00am - Worship + KidTime 4:00pm - Tomato Fest - Great Room	<b>23</b>  10:00am - Staff Meeting	<b>24</b>  9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 11:00am - Knitters for Peace 6:30pm - Hunger Team - Conference Room  Contemplative Prayer Retreat - Episcopal Church's Camp Marshal - September 24 - 26
<b>29</b>  8:30am - Worship + KidTime 9:45am - Creation Care Adult Ed - Community Room 9:45am - Sunday School 9:45am - Confirmation - Loft 11:00am - Worship + KidTime	<b>30</b>  10:00am - Staff Meeting	

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>4</b>  9:00am - Men's Group - Great Room 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer - Youth Loft	<b>5</b>  9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  3:00pm - Baird Linke's Ordination
<b>11</b>  9:00am - Men's Group - Great Room 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer - Youth Loft 6:00pm - Confirmation Orientation - Community Room  ~~~~~ Sound System Installation - September 9 - 14 ~~~~~	<b>12</b>  9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  1:00pm - Carroll College Concessions
<b>18</b>  9:00am - Men's Group - Great Room 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer - Youth Loft 1:00pm - WELCA Bible Study - Great Room 6:00pm - Confirmation 6:00pm - Youth Group	<b>19</b>  9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6	<b>20</b>  Contemplative Prayer Retreat - Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp - September 20 - 22	<b>21</b>
<b>25</b>  9:00am - Men's Group - Great Room 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer - Youth Loft 6:00pm - Confirmation 6:00pm - Youth Group  Contemplative Prayer Retreat - Episcopal Church's Camp Marshal - September 24 - 26	<b>26</b>  9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  10:00am - Stewardship Work Day 1:00pm - Stewardship Work Day