

JOIN US FOR MEANINGFUL WAYS TO MARK THE SEASON

**Award-winning musician John Hermanson brings us music from his album *Isaiah***

Thursday, November 30 at 7:00 pm  
Thursday, December 7 at 7:00 pm  
Thursday, December 14 at 7:00 pm

John is a member of the acclaimed folk duo Storyhill, and was a regular performer on NPR's *A Prairie Home Companion*.

**Advent Lessons and Hymns**

Sunday, December 17 at 8:30 & 11:00 am

Prepare for the birth of Christ with these two Sunday services at Our Redeemer's.

**Carroll College Singers**

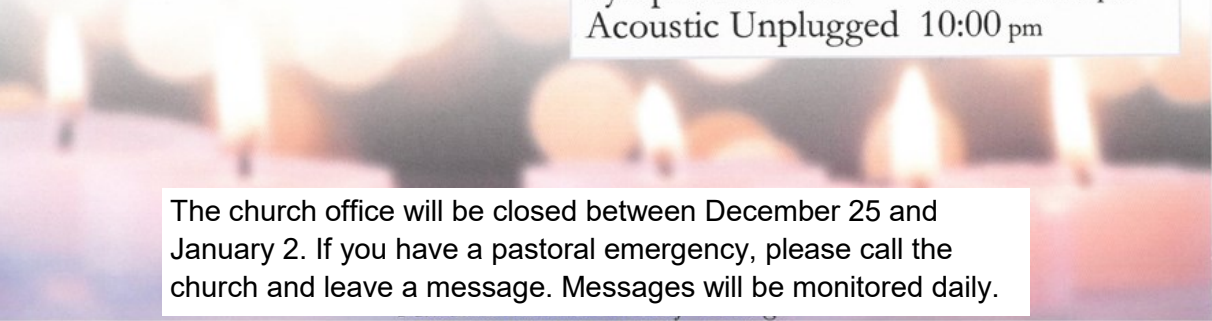
Friday, December 1 at 7:00 pm

Join us, as we welcome our local college singers in a program to enter into the season of Advent. Director Dr. Michael Gray bring us music by Tchaikovsky, Tomás Luis de Victoria, and Britten, as well as sing-alongs and an advent message.

**Christmas Eve Worship**

Sunday, December 24

Traditional Organ	10:00 am
Symphonic Brass	4:00 & 6:00 pm
Acoustic Unplugged	10:00 pm



The church office will be closed between December 25 and January 2. If you have a pastoral emergency, please call the church and leave a message. Messages will be monitored daily.



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

OUR REDEEMER'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
THE VOICE

December 2023



If you were in worship on November 26, you heard me list the many ways that Our Redeemer's is bucking national and local trends, as we continue to grow in membership and expand our ministries in Helena and beyond. On that Thanksgiving weekend, I gave thanks for all the ways we are serving our neighbors. If you would like to hear that message, you can find it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mM116vvehrU&list=PLFZpwgg4LaV7h-QdMwn3RIJJLoVHhOs4Y&index=1> The lesson and sermon begin at 20:35.

I bring this to your attention, because along with the excellent and detailed article from our Council President Kevin Matthews that follows, I hope it will give some explanation and encouragement for the 2024 Ministry Plan (budget) that the Council is proposing. It is an exciting time in the life of this congregation, and I firmly believe we are all being challenged to step out in faith in our service and in our giving.

Thanks be to God for all the blessings of 2023!  
Pastor Trina Johnsten

As a member of Our Redeemer's, you will soon be asked to consider, understand, approve, and commit to a Ministry Plan for 2024. The Church Council recommends its adoption. That recommendation, though, is contingent upon your understanding of and commitment to supporting the Plan.

This Ministry Plan represents the expenses and associated giving required to maintain a structure from which we can effectively share the Gospel of Christ with each other and our community. Its largest component, 65%, pays for staff who support our mutual ministries by coordinating, leading, teaching, inspiring, and comforting us. These expenses include salaries, standard benefits, continuing education, and one-time costs associated with adding a new associate pastor.

The next-largest component, 19%, supports the facility in which we gather to worship, learn, and serve. Those expenses do not include mortgage loan repayment but do include expenses such as property taxes, maintenance, and minor improvements. Our building is a critical tool for ministry. It provides a place for us to worship, work, learn, and connect. It also houses a preschool where children learn about and experience

God's love through caring teachers; two groups of Scouts growing into confident, competent leaders and citizens guided by dedicated adults; participants in the Family Promise program overcoming challenges that prevent them from living into their full potential; and a range of community events and functions that align with our mission.

A relatively small proportion, 12%, of the Ministry Plan is dedicated to supporting specific ministries such as children's and youth programs and worship leadership. That portion also provides for general administrative and miscellaneous expenses.

Finally, the Ministry Plan continues the 2023 target of supporting the Montana Synod - and, through them, the ELCA - with 4% of Our Redeemer's general offering. This is our contribution to the ELCA's ministries throughout our state, country, and world. It also helps the Montana Synod support Our Redeemer's (by helping us hire an associate pastor, for example).

It's important to understand that the proposed Ministry Plan represents only a small portion of the entirety of the ministries at Our Redeemer's. Other ministries include monetary and/or volunteer support by our members for Helena Food Share, the God's Love shelter, Lutheran World Relief, and Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. The Plan does not include volunteer time dedicated to planning and coordinating efforts to sell and develop our unused property for a variety of affordable housing options. It doesn't include countless volunteer hours spent with children and youth and working with important committees and informal groups such as Long-Range Planning, Stewardship, Personnel, Facilities Oversight, Women of the ELCA, musician groups, and office and administrative support. It also does not include accounts funded by gifts dedicated to specific purposes such as the Perpetual Fund and the Memorials Fund.

The proposed Ministry Plan does not include mortgage principle and interest payments. In the past, we have covered those with capital campaign pledge drives. Though we have discontinued the pledge drives, the requirement to make consistent monthly mortgage payments remains. Thankfully, many members continue to give separately to pay the building mortgage.

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

While we can't know for sure where annual giving - and to a lesser extent, expenses - will end up this year, we estimate that giving will just cover actual expenses with very little left to carry into 2024. Actual 2023 expenses, however, are projected to be well below budgeted expenses for this year. That is largely due to staffing: the 2023 plan included an entire year for full-time Director of Youth Ministry and Director of Worship positions and a half year for a part-time Associate Pastor. None of those occurred. The proposed 2024 Ministry Plan includes Youth and Worship Director positions both at half-time and a full-time Associate Pastor for the entire year.

The proposed 2024 Ministry Plan is ambitious. To fund it will require a significant increase in giving: \$723,500 in 2024 versus \$559,800 donated in 2022, a 29% increase of \$163,600. Failure to fund it may prevent us from honoring some of our commitments and diminish our ministry capacity.

In spite of this challenge, the Council is recommending the proposed Ministry Plan for the following reasons:

- This proposed Plan funds the ministries we have already committed to as a congregation.
- It is likely, though not absolutely guaranteed and pending congregational approval, that we will sell our undeveloped property in 2024. We expect money from the sale will allow us to pay off the mortgage. We also hope people who are now contributing to the mortgage fund will redirect those contributions to the general ministries fund.
- The property sale will also free up a sizable fund dedicated to helping build a new segment of Horseshoe Bend Road through our undeveloped property. Selling the property will release us from that obligation.
- Our membership has been growing: 60 people joined us in ministry in 2022, and 30+ will have joined by the end of this year.
- We expect that adding a new Associate Pastor and stabilizing the Director of Youth and Director of Worship positions will increase our capacity for

ministry and draw new ministry partners to our congregation.

- The proposed Plan is forward-looking; actual expenses next year will very likely be less than projected since the Associate Pastor call process has been extended. Even a half-year of a new Associate Pastor, however, will require a 21% increase of \$118,600 above 2022 ministry fund giving. We also recognize that the Plan represents a best-guess estimate at a particular point in time. Due to the unique nature of church finances, it's both a budget and a sort of contract with each other to pursue and support a defined level of ministry together.
- While the proposed Ministry Plan is a challenge, it is also an opportunity to exercise and make tangible our faith, to express our gratitude for God's generosity toward us, and to more powerfully demonstrate to others God's power and grace.
- Most importantly, we trust that God has called us to expand the vibrant ministries already enlivening this church, and we trust that God will provide the resources needed to answer that call.

Please prayerfully consider the proposed Ministry Plan when it is made available for review on December 3 and join us to discuss the Plan between services the following gSunday (December 10). Listen for the ways God is calling you to help transform aspiration into action. It's not comfortable territory. It's risky. It is going to require that we all increase our support for our shared ministries and that we strengthen our faith in God's provision as individuals and as a congregation. Rarely, though, is anything good accomplished by being comfortable and safe. Following the untamed Creator of the universe is not "safe." It is, though, what God graciously calls us to do, as together, and with the help of the Spirit, we strive to live into the reality that Christ "died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves but for him who died and was raised for them." (2 Cor 5:15).

REJOICE!  
Kevin Mathews, Council President

Christmas Lights with Over 40 Singles

Please join the Over 40 Singles for a Christmas gathering on December 17 starting at 4:00pm in the Great Room at the church. We will gather for a few Christmas goodies and something warm to drink. Then we will venture out and enjoy Christmas lights. I look forward to sharing the oohs and aahs of the beautiful lights with others. If this sounds like fun, please join us! We welcome any that find themselves "single:" never married, widowed, divorced, separated or whatever your circumstance - and whatever your age. The more the merrier! Please bring a Christmas goodie or appetizer to share. Beverages will be provided. If you need a ride or have any questions, please contact Brenda Olson (c) 406-459-9258 or [brenda443@hotmail.com](mailto:brenda443@hotmail.com).

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

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church

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Ministers: All the People of God

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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

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

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:

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Voice articles due on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month

Friday, December 15 at 5:00pm  
[LoriW@OurRedeemerLives.Org](mailto:LoriW@OurRedeemerLives.Org)



# Long Term Prayer Concerns

Help us update our Long Term Prayer Concerns list by calling the church office.

## Our Members

Phyllis Bauer	Linda Huso	Nikki MacMillan	Jim Poore	Ruth Straley
Richard Carey	Pr. Trina Johnsten	Lorna Meyer	Vicki Poore	Thea Swenson
Roberta Carey	Carol Kimble	Julie Mehl	Jenny Santy	
Jim Haubein	Dale Mickus	Ron Paulson	Laurie Simms	

## Our Family and Friends

<b>Ken Acord</b> (Linda Coty)	<b>Janessa and Maryssa Martin and Cheyene Bade</b> (Roberta Carey's great nieces)
<b>Zachary Ark</b>	<b>Ricki McDanold</b> (Denise Richards)
<b>Victor Bachmier</b>	<b>Sharon McLane</b> Ryan & Abigail McLane)
<b>Julie Bliss</b> (Nadine Sim)	<b>Ruth Naegele</b>
<b>Steve Boyter</b>	<b>Chris O'Connor</b> (Cheri Goosen's cousin)
<b>Diane Brown</b> (Susan Sielbach)	<b>Laura Oleson</b> (Debbie Hurni's sister-in-law)
<b>Peggy Campbell</b>	<b>Evelyn Sabo</b> (Janet Erickson's mother)
<b>Cody Carey</b> (Richard & Roberta's great grandson)	<b>Brandy Spaid</b> (Shannon Bartole)
<b>Tom Carter</b>	<b>Dorothy Tangen</b> (Craig Erickson's aunt)
<b>JLD</b> (Gary and Joy Novota)	<b>Jory Van Antwerp</b>
<b>Karen Elliot</b> (Chas Elliot's mom)	<b>Doug Williams</b> (Leona Williams' son)
<b>Brandon Erickson</b>	<b>Families of suicide victims</b>
<b>Stormy Flinders</b>	<b>Olivia</b>
<b>Pat Graham</b>	<b>Sefra</b>
<b>Tom Hammond</b> (Sue Hill's dad)	<b>Sue</b>
<b>Donna Hurni</b> (Neal Hurni)	
<b>Larry Kuntz</b> (Dave & Lori Swenson)	
<b>Adeline Lagerquist</b> (Joy Novota's mom)	
<b>Jared Larsen</b> (Ruth Reed's grandson)	

## Our Family and Friends Serving in the Military

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

## Our Seminarians

Baird Linke  
Shawn, Sara, Addie & Kaden Juers



### Lowell and Joan Anderson

The Andersons are joining family at Our Redeemer's; Lowell and our own Jim Anderson are cousins. Retired from a variety of positions (Lowell at Buttrey Foods and as caretaker of a church, Joan from teaching high school English and being a church secretary), they moved to Helena from WA to be close to one of their two sons, who promptly moved to be near to his grandchildren!



### Dean and Mavis Parry

The Parrys have been married for 55 years, after first meeting on a blind date on April Fools' Day! He spent his career working in the resource unit for the Forest Service and she worked in banking. They are originally from South Dakota.



### Chelsea Salas, Ziaden and Landon

Picture coming soon.

Chelsea and the boys recently moved from Long Beach, CA to be near family here in Helena. She works for St. Peter's in the gastrointestinal clinic. Ziaden is 7 and in first grade; Landon is 2 years old.

### Tamara and Larry Crowder



Native Montanans (Sidney for Tamara, Malta for Larry), the Crowders come most recently from Culbertson, where they were for 35 years, 25 of which Larry was the superintendent of schools. He's now working for the Montana Rural Education Association. Tamara has been in health insurance for many years, enjoys quilting, and has served on the Montana Synod Council. They have three adult children.

### Nicole Evans

Nicole grew up in Billings, where she was active at Atonement and First English Lutheran churches. After graduating from college, she moved to Helena and is an elementary school music teacher. She plays oboe in the Helena Symphony Orchestra and we hope to hear her play at Our Redeemer's soon too!



### Krystal Smith, Harper

Krystal and Harper moved from Great Falls to Helena in the spring of 2020, where she served as the University of Providence women's basketball assistant coach. She currently works for the Office of Public Instruction. Harper is four years old and is in her second year of attending Our Redeemer's Preschool. They enjoy spending time with family and friends, watching and playing sports, and traveling.



### Julie Mehl

Julie grew up in Fort Worth, Texas and is the daughter of Dave and Beth Mehl. She attended college at Texas A&M University and enjoys reading, gluten-free baking, jigsaw puzzles, and watching an unhealthy amount of TV. She is looking forward to getting involved in the new ORLC Young Adult Fellowship.





## Children's Christmas Celebration!

**When:** Sunday, December 10 from 2:00-4:00

**Where:** The Great Room @Our Redeemer's

**Who:** Children & Families Age 3 -12th Grade

**What:** Christmas Party to celebrate the birth of Jesus!

- \* Retelling of the Christmas Story
- \* Craft Projects
- \* Gingerbread House Making
- \* Cookie Decorating



**RSVP** to Liz at [liz@ourredeemerlives.org](mailto:liz@ourredeemerlives.org) by December 4!

## December Schedule

- 3 Sunday School—Advent
- 10 Sunday School—Advent
- 10 Children's Christmas Event @2-4pm
- 15 Elf Movie Night @6pm
- 17 Sunday School—Advent
- 20 Christmas Party & Game Night @6:30pm
- 24-31 Christmas Break—No Sunday School!



## Holiday KidTime Schedule

- December 24 - No KidTime
- December 31 - No KidTime



Like our Children's Ministry Facebook page to stay in the loop!  
<https://www.facebook.com/orlcchildrensministries/>



## SAVE the DATE!

### Vacation Bible School

**June 10-14, 2023**

More info. and registration coming soon!

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



## Ice-Skating Night

All kids PK-5th grade are invited to come ice-skating on Wednesday, January 17 at 6:30!



Skate rentals are **FREE** and Our Redeemer's will pay your admission fee!! All are welcome to join. Bring the entire family. See you there!



1	Bob Winfield	9
2	Karen Armstrong	10
	Libby Martin	
	Chase Sampson	
	John Wadhams	
3	Marla Maharg	
	Jim Schulz	
4	Jan Anderson	11
	Bailey Marble	12
	Riley Rummel	
	Thea Swenson	13
5	Sharlene Kolb	
6	Madison Grotbo	15
	Dayna Willcut	
7	Brooklyn Haab	
	Jessica Salo	
	Kimberly Shaner	
8	Tami Darlow	

Joshua Griffith	16
Norm Midtlyng	17
Dan Richardson	
Alexander Wickens	
Sam Fischer	18
Kevin Harrington	
Laurel Orthmeyer	19
Craig Trapp	
Lacie Willard	
Steve Keller	20
Ingrid Childress	
Mike Maynard	
Mackenzie Grimmis	21
Blair Krumm	
Luke Liston	
Hermes Lynn	
Carol Maynard	22
Charlie Mummey	
Mike Randall	
Maureen Ward	24

Jocelyn Gates	
Kaden Juers	
Jill Myhre	25
Emily Walter	26
Tim Cail	
Erin Mills	
Nolan Burke	27
Ann Harris	28
Mark Robertson	
Byron Beley	
McKenna Robertson	29
Roselyn Santy	
Chris Denning	
Rhett Quinn	30
Madeline Richards	
Sheila Richmond	
Lyle Pratt	
Ryan Swenson	
Jenny Santy	
Nikki Goosen	

Chris May	
Darrell Stipcich	
Hildegard Krumm	
Janet Erickson	
Julia Goughnour	
Leah Martin	
Sonya Amman	
Charlie Brown	
Adam Liston	
Liliana Swenson	
Lauren Heuser	
Linda Huso	
Jenny Moore	
Chris Brott	
Cathy Reagor	



## Baptisms

11/26/23

Dillon Richard Harris



## Deaths

10/27/23 Joanne Schaller

11/20/23 Mary "Molly" Protheroe



## December Anniversaries

Celebrate with those married 40 years or more this month!

12/18/1982	Gary and Dee Dee Fischer	41 years
12/28/1982	Ron and Janet Whitmoyer	41 years
12/30/1978	Patrick and Noreen Johnson	45 years
12/30/1977	Alan and Char Baglien	46 years
12/27/1976	Bill and Darbie Hess	47 years
12/20/1975	Kapp and Bonnie Johnson	48 years
12/27/1970	Larry and Lynda Hanson	53 years
12/30/1969	Bruce and Judy McMaster	54 years
12/29/1962	John and Karen Darlow	61 years
12/27/1959	Ron and Marian Paulson	64 years

## Come to The Water

Baptism Class at Our Redeemer's



Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters!

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](mailto:trina@ourredeemerlives.org) or 406-442-7842.

## HOSPITALIZED? LET US KNOW...

We have a caring group of individuals who are happy to visit hospitalized members. The hospital staff is not currently asking religious preference or church membership on admission. Please notify the church office if you, your family, or friends are hospitalized. We want to be a part of your healing process.





Lisa and Kevin Mathews

Lisa Williams-Mathews and Kevin Mathews have not only been seen but heard around Our Redeemer’s, as they freely share their musical gifts and fabulous voices. Kevin has been a part of the Praise Band that leads worship on Sundays. One member of the congregation while doing this interview came and said to Kevin, “I just love your music. Sometimes I just close my eyes and listen to you.”



Both Lisa and Kevin grew up in Helena and were high school sweethearts. They met in the fifth grade but started dating in high school when Kevin played the part of Jesus and Lisa played Mary Magdalene in the musical, “Jesus Christ Super Star.” Lisa grew up in the Catholic Church and Kevin in the Methodist. While out in Renton, Washington, they attended a Lutheran church. When they came back to Helena, they led worship at St. Paul’s Methodist Church for several years before their friends who attended Our Redeemer’s invited them to worship. They started attending Our Redeemer’s around 2007.

Kevin and Lisa said they appreciate the Lutheran theology for its grace-filled emphasis and the grounding it gives for ministry. They appreciate the church’s openness to asking questions and the many ways that Our Redeemer’s reaches out to the community and world .

Both of them were invited by Pastor Kendra to become Lay Pastoral Associates (LPA) when Lisa worked at our church in charge of the children’s ministry. This two-year study of the Bible, Lutheran history and theology, preaching and pastoral care gave them a better understanding of scripture.

Here are a few other ways these gifted leaders share their talents:

- Lisa served as the Director of Children’s ministries for seven years (serendipitously retiring just before the pandemic!). During that period, Kevin faithfully and happily helped with Sunday school and Vacation Bible School.
- Lisa is chair of the Altar Guild.
- Kevin is president of the church Council.
- Lisa coordinates the “Take a Meal Ministry” for the sick or those recovering from surgery.
- Both are overnight hosts for Family Promise. Lisa provides meals.
- Kevin helped shepherd a group of energetic boys through three years of confirmation.
- Lisa is on the search committee for the new director of worship.
- Lisa leads chapel time for three different preschool groups once a month.
- They enjoy sharing music at the Beehive Homes once a month.
- They are involved in skits, choirs, and the musical ministry on Sunday mornings.

Kevin and Lisa believe Our Redeemer’s has answers for living in this troubled world. They believe Pastor Trina has brought hopefulness and excitement to the congregation and its mission focus. They see it as a strength that the church was able to come together and share leadership and talents, even when Pastor Trina was ill. They hope members will continue to see the Our Redeemer’s family as a place to grow in their own faith and to share their gifts and God’s love with other members and our community.

Lisa and Kevin recently celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary! They have a son, Peter, and daughter-in-law, Anita, who live near Butte, and a daughter, Lauren, and son-in-law, Evin, who live in Missoula. We are so blessed to have Kevin and Lisa as leaders and committed servants here at Our Redeemer’s. Lisa and Kevin continue to inspire us with their amazing gifts and tender, humble hearts! Thanks be to God!



Christmas Party and Game Night

Wednesday, December 20

6:30-8:00pm (dinner included)

If you have an ugly sweater, wear it! There will be a prize for the ugliest.  
Siblings, parents, and friends are welcome to join us!

Middle School Ski Day



Many talk about this.  
Many enjoy doing this.  
Many want to try.



Come out and enjoy a day at Great Divide with other Middle Schoolers from church. If you are a seasoned skier/boarder that’s great; if you are not... it’s a good day to try something new.

**When:** Monday, January 22 (No School Day)

**Where:** Meet at Great Divide in the lodge between 9:30 and 10:00am. Pick up in the lodge at 4:00pm.

**Who:** Middle Schoolers and adults who would like to help! *Talk to Steph if you can lend a helping hand on the slopes.*

**Cost:** If you have gear and a season pass, bring it and the day is free. If you need a lift ticket and/or rentals, bring \$20 to help cover costs. The church will cover the rest. Do not let \$\$ stand in your way. Talk to Pastor Trina or Steph if this is preventing you from coming.



**What to bring:** Bring a lunch. Wear snow gear. Dress accordingly.

**Sign up no later than Sunday, January 14** - Follow this QR code or link to sign up.

<https://forms.gle/CgXrmiNJ6TU6ZkaFA>

High School Winter Retreat

*This retreat was previously advertised for White Sulphur Springs, but lodging was difficult to find for large groups. As a result, the location has changed.*

**When:** Depart from the church at 5:30pm on Thursday, December 28. Return to the church at 5:30pm on Saturday, December 30. Eat dinner before arriving on Thursday.

**Where:** We will be staying in a cozy cabin in Polaris, MT.

**What:** We will be skiing at Maverick Mountain Ski Area on Friday. Saturday we will be sledding at a local park and soaking at Elkhorn Hot Springs. In the evenings we will be holding devotionals in the cabin.

**Who:** High Schoolers and their friends are welcome to join us!

**Cost:** \$100/person includes lift ticket, lodging, food, soaking, travel and ski rental if needed. This fee is due to Steph by December 13.



**Registration on or before December 13:**  
Follow this QR code or link to sign up.  
<https://forms.gle/vKLc9tppBteSdGzy9>

Volunteers are needed to help with Carroll College Concessions on December 14 from 6:00-8:30pm.  
Email [steph@ourredeemerlives.org](mailto:steph@ourredeemerlives.org) to sign up.



The Associate Pastor Call Committee wants to take a moment during this joyous Advent season as we await the celebration of our Savior's birth - to remind you that we too are waiting. We are waiting for that perfect candidate to come forward so that we can begin again with our process for vetting the (hopefully) next Associate Pastor for Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church. You too can have a part in this. if you are aware of an **ORDAINED** minister within the ELCA or our partner churches that you think would be an ideal fit and a great colleague for Pastor Trina - we would like to forward that information to the Montana Synod. There is a specific form that can be used for this nomination available from Lori Walter in the office or if it is easier for you to speak with Pastor Trina or our chairperson, Abby McLane, please feel free to do so. Please do not contact the nominee personally as that is the role of the synod office.

The holidays are not the easiest time for someone to step forward as we all get wrapped up in our lives and families, but rest assured that the search does continue. Thank you for your ongoing prayers for this future candidate and for the Call Committee as we await another opportunity to complete our mission.

HUNGER TEAM NEWS

Cups for Christmas!

This December, Helena Food Share is requesting individual fruit cups for the kid packs program. So while you are doing your holiday grocery shopping, you might pick up a case of these special goodies for the hungry kids in our community. You may once again leave them at the Helena Food Share display in the hallway outside the sanctuary.

And THANK YOU for all the granola bars you donated in November. They were greatly appreciated.

Thanks for the Holiday Food Drive

Thank you so very much for the food you donated to the Holiday Food Drive for Helena Food Share. As of this writing, we do not have the total poundage available to share with you. You certainly helped to grace the tables of many families in our community.

Thank You for Helping Family Promise

Thank you to everyone who helped to make our Family Promise guests feel welcome last month. It truly takes a village to complete this task every quarter. And you are that village: those who set up the rooms on the first Sunday and took down the rooms on the final Sunday, the overnight hosts who slept at the church, those who purchased food and welcomed our guests, and those who prepared meals and delivered them to the Day Center. From those who delivered flashlights to our guests the night we lost power to those who worked behind the scenes to make sure that everything ran smoothly: You are truly a blessing.

God’s Love Needs Your Help

Christmas season is here. Hunger Team cannot properly thank you for your generous support and giving throughout the year. You have shown us, over and over, how we can help those less fortunate and in need of help. The gift of God’s love shines through all of you.

For December, our amazing community is very supportive of God’s Love. Therefore, what they could use our help with is:

- Cleaning Supplies-bleach, Lysol, Pine Sol, Clorox cleanser, etc.
- Cold weather clothing-hats, socks, coats, mittens, sleeping bags, blankets, etc.

Touchmark Worship Service

Our Redeemer's members provide a worship and communion service monthly at Touchmark Retirement Community. We will meet Tuesday, December 19 at 10am in the forum. Lori Bigwood-Pecarina and Sharlene Kolb will provide leadership. If you would like to worship with them and our member residents and friends at Touchmark, you are welcome to attend. Touchmark is located at 915 Saddle Drive.

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

DATE	CLEAN/PREP Before Sunday	SET UP FOR 8:30 and RE- SET for 11	CLEAN UP AFTER 11:00	OTHER INFO
2023				
12.3	All Altar Guild	Charlene	Lori C	Blue Paraments 1st Advent
12.10	Lori W Communion Kits	Kristi	Lori C	Blue Parament 2nd Advent
12.17	Sonja	Charlene	Lisa	Blue Parament 3rd Advent
12.31	Kristi	Kristi	Shannon	White Paraments

Interested in joining this ministry? Contact Lisa Williams-Mathews,

Movie and Pizza

Friday, December 15 ~~ Elf

Looking for something fun to do on a Friday night?  
Join your friends at Our Redeemer’s for a movie!



Pizza, popcorn and drinks provided.  
Bring a dish to share.  
Invite your friends!

Movies start at 6:00pm.



FLATHEAD LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP DATES

This year we have two different dates that Steph with Our Redeemer’s will be going to FLBC. Sign up for one of those dates to see familiar faces around camp.

June 23 - 28, 2024

&

July 28 - Aug 2, 2024

Registration for FLBC is open.

John Hermanson playing music from Isaiah

An award-winning songwriter and composer, John is a member of the acclaimed duo Storyhill, and was a regular performer on NPR’s *A Prairie Home Companion*. While on the staff at Oak Knoll Lutheran (MN), he wrote liturgies, psalmody and put some of the most beloved parts of Isaiah to music.

Thursday, December 7 at 7:00pm

Thursday, December 14 at 7:00pm



Financial Report

Giving was down in October, resulting in a small cash balance. That, coupled with the property tax payment, required the Council to hold Building Funds, Dedicated Funds, and Benevolence for the month of October. The Council is grateful for the generous contributions of time and money to the church and its community partners throughout the year. It also recognizes the need for larger end-of-the-year giving in order to meet its primary commitments to the 2023 budget.

Ministry Team and Committee Reports

- **Staff Reports**
  - All staff reports continue to be quite positive. Preschool, Sunday School, KidTime, Confirmation, and Youth activities continue to show growth and enthusiasm.
  - Pastor Trina reported that neighborhood postcards about upcoming Advent and Christmas offerings were mailed this week.
  - The church office will be closed between Christmas and New Year’s in order to give the staff a break.
- **Call Committee**
  - The call committee for the Associate Pastor will restart its procedure since the recent candidate chose to withdraw from consideration.
- **Long Range Planning Committee**
  - This group has met twice. Dennis Trotter has helped facilitate these first two meetings.

Miscellaneous Status Reports

- **Council Planning Retreat**
  - The Council met for a planning retreat at the end of October, focusing on looking at current committee structure. Jeanne McCoskery led the Council in ways to improve communication between the congregation and the Council. Follow-up on that planning process will resume in January.
- **Church Directory**
  - The Council wishes to thank the congregation for its participation in submitting photos and up-to-date contact information for our online church directory. There will be another opportunity for photos available after worship on Sunday, December 17.
- **Nominating Committee**
  - Tracy Moseman reported that there are two positions to be filled on the Council for next year, as well as one position on the Memorial Committee, and one on the Perpetual Funds committee. Congregation members are asked to give prayerful consideration if they are contacted to serve in any of these capacities.

New Business

- **Budget for 2024**
  - The Council approved the Ministry Plan for 2024.
  - The Ministry Plan will be available for the congregation on Sunday, December 3.
  - The Ministry Plan forum will be on December 10, and held in the Community Room between services. Questions about the Ministry Plan will be answered at that meeting.
  - Congregational meeting for Ministry Plan approval will take place on December 17, between services.

Linda Nelson  
Secretary



CAREGIVER’S SUPPORT GROUP

TIME AND DATE CHANGE

A small group of individuals providing support for loved ones meets monthly at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church in the Conference Room. We will gather on December 3 at 12:10pm, after the second worship service. We meet for an hour to share stories and wisdom. As the last Sundays during both November and December fall on holiday weekends, this will be our only meeting for these months. Companionship for your loved ones is provided during the meeting.



If you wish to speak to one of the leaders during the week or have any questions, please contact us at the following numbers:

Lori Bigwood-Pecarina (406-672-2470)

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP



The grief group will meet between services (9:45am) on Sunday December 10. All who are experiencing grief this holiday season are invited to join us. How do we grieve as the world around us rejoices? Is it ok to celebrate when they are not here to join with us? There is no right or wrong way to grieve, we simply walk beside each other as we go through the journey. If you have questions or need to talk feel free to call: Jane Peachey 234-567-1461 or Lori Bigwood-Pecarina 406-672-2470.



ONLINE MEMBER DIRECTORY LOGIN INSTRUCTIONS.

First time signing into the Online Directory or Mobile App?

1. Go to [members.instantchurchdirectory.com](https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com)
2. Click on the **Create Login** button under: First time signing in?
3. Enter the email address as it is listed in the family portion of the directory.
4. Create a password. The password must be 8 characters long and contain at least two of the following special characters: capital letters, numbers or symbols.
5. Retype the password to confirm it and click **Request Login**.
6. Check your inbox for an email from [service@instantchurchdirectory.com](mailto:service@instantchurchdirectory.com).
7. To complete the sign-up process, you will need to verify your email address by clicking on the link sent to you in that email.
8. Once you confirm your email, you may sign at [members.instantchurchdirectory.com](https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com).



Your email with the password you created will work on all the Instant Church Directory apps on any device

Already logged into the Mobile App?

1. Go to [members.instantchurchdirectory.com](https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com)
2. Enter your email address listed in the directory and your unique member password.
3. Click **Sign In**.

*December 2023*

AD = Administrative Wing  
CR = Classrooms  
PS = Preschool

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<b>3</b> <p>New Member Sunday</p> <p><b>8:30am - Worship + KidTime</b>            9:45am - Sunday School (ages 3—5th grade)            9:45am - Confirmation Class  <b>11:00am - Worship + KidTime</b>            12:10pm - Caregiver's Support Group - Conference Room</p>	<b>4</b> <p>10:00am - Staff Meeting            7:00pm - Bell Choir - Sanctuary</p>	<b>5</b> <p>9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6            11:00am - Knitters for Peace</p>
<b>10</b> <p><b>8:30am - Worship + KidTime</b>            9:45am - Budget Forum - Community Room            9:45am - Grief Support Group - Conference Rm            9:45am - Sunday School (ages 3—5th grade)            9:45am - Confirmation Class            10:00am - Folk Dancing - Great Room  <b>11:00am - Worship + KidTime</b>            2:00pm - Children's Christmas Event</p>	<b>11</b> <p>10:00am - Staff Meeting            5:30pm - Stewardship Committee Meeting            7:00pm - Bell Choir - Sanctuary</p>	<b>12</b> <p>9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6            11:00am - Knitters for Peace            6:30pm - Executive Committee meeting - Conference Rm</p>
<b>17</b> <p>Pictures for directory taken after worship</p> <p><b>8:30am - Worship + KidTime - Advent Lessons &amp; Hymns</b>            9:45am - Congregational Meeting - Great Room            9:45am - Sunday School (ages 3—5th grade)            9:45am - Confirmation Class  <b>11:00am - Worship + KidTime - Advent Lessons &amp; Hymns</b>            11:00am - Children's Choir sings            4:00pm - Christmas Lights with Over 40 Single - meet in Great Room at Our Redeemer's</p>	<b>18</b> <p>10:00am - Staff Meeting            5:30pm - Long-Range Planning Committee Meeting</p>	<b>19</b> <p>9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6            10:00am - Touchmark Worship and Communion            11:00am - Knitters for Peace</p>
<b>24</b> <p>Christmas Eve</p> <p><b>10:00am - Traditional organ Christmas Eve Worship</b>  <b>4:00pm - Symphonic Brass Christmas Eve Worship</b>  <b>6:00pm - Symphonic Brass Christmas Eve Worship</b>  <b>10:00pm - Acoustic Unplugged Christmas Eve Worship</b></p> <p>No Nursery, Sunday School or KidTime</p>	<b>25</b> <p>Christmas Day - Office closed</p> <p>~~~~~ Church Office &amp; Preschool Closed this week - Merry Christmas! ~~~~~</p>	<b>26</b>
<b>31</b> <p>No Nursery, Sunday School or KidTime</p>	<p>The church office will be closed between December 25 and January 2. If you have a pastoral emergency, please call the church and leave a message. Messages will be monitored daily.</p>	

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>  WELCA Holiday Bazaar luncheon and bake sale 9:00am - 1:00pm
<b>6</b> 9:00am - Men's Group - Conference Rm. 11:30am - Women's Bible Study-Conf. Rm. 6:30pm - Confirmation Class 6:30pm - Youth Group	<b>7</b> 9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6 7:00pm - John Hermanson - Isaiah concert	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>13</b> 9:00am - Men's Group - Conference Rm. 1:00pm - WELCA Bible Study - Great Rm 6:30pm - Confirmation Class 6:30pm - Youth Group	<b>14</b> 9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6 6:30pm - Carroll College Concessions 7:00pm - John Hermanson - Isaiah concert	<b>15</b> Voice Articles Due 6:00pm - Movie Night - <i>ELF</i>	<b>16</b>
<b>20</b> 9:00am - Men's Group - Conference Rm. 11:30am - Women's Bible Study - Conf. Rm. 6:30pm - Youth Christmas Party & Game Night	<b>21</b> 9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>27</b> 9:00am - Men's Group - Conference Rm.	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<p>~~~~~ High School Winter Retreat ~~~~~</p> <p>~~~~~ Church Office &amp; Preschool Closed this week - Merry Christmas! ~~~~~</p>			