

"PREVENTING FRAUD IN MONTANA"

We've all gotten emails and texts that look like they are from friends or family (or our pastor!), but are really a scam trying to trick us out of our personal information and money. Fraud is a real problem. The Stewardship Team and Thrivent are offering a very interesting program on common recent scams in Montana, and how you can identify them and protect your finances from these crooks.

Join Blair Stapleton and Brett Olin from the Montana Commissioner of Securities and Insurance office on Thursday, February 8 in the Great Room as they share their knowledge on this important subject. The program begins at 11:30 am with a light lunch. Please invite your family, friends and neighbors to the FREE EVENT. RSVP to our host Lynn Voss at Lynn.Voss@thrivent.com.



OUR REDEEMER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH THE VOICE

February 2024



Off to the races....!

It seems like February should be a quiet time of the year. We're far enough into 2024 that we've recovered from the franticness of Christmas and New Year's. There are no major holidays unless you're a starry-eyed teen. It's normally the hunker-down-and-wait-for-spring time of the year.

But not this year! With an early Ash Wednesday, two ways to mark the Lenten season, and an interesting adult education offering, there is a lot going on around here in February:

- ♦ **Ash Wednesday** is on February 14 this year. It may not seem romantic to have someone say *Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return* on a day usually marked by candy and flowers, but trust me, it's always good to hear the truth and then settle into the promises of the One who will love us for all eternity. We will have worship with the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion at noon and 6:30pm that day.
- ♦ **Holden Evening Prayer** will be offered at 6:30pm on five Thursdays in Lent, and we hope to have some special music as part of it. If you'd like to help with leadership (singing, playing an instrument, reading), please reach out to Jason Callon at jason@ourredeemerlives.org. This is scheduled for February 22 and 29, and March 7, 14, and 21.
- ♦ The Hunger Team is spearheading a **Lenten Study Series** and hopes the whole congregation will join in. The focus will be meals in Jesus' ministry (feeding of the 5000, parables of feasting, the Last Supper), and the book is *Meeting Jesus at the Table*. There are multiple small group gatherings each week to explore a chapter of the book and do some Bible study. You should be able to find one that fits your schedule. Sign-up on February 4 and 11 in the narthex (entryway to our worship space). The books are FREE, so come and *meet Jesus at the table*!

Contact Baird Linke (bairdlinke16@gmail.com or 406-465-9532) with any questions or if you would like to lead a small group. Leaders commit to leading five weekly sessions throughout Lent and attending two training sessions after worship on February 11 and March 13.

- ♦ **The Israel-Palestine conflict** has been a top news story since October 7, 2023, when this longstanding conflict intensified. Baird Linke will lead sessions at 9:45am on February 4 and 11 on the history of and recent events that impact the Israel-Palestine conflict, including the role of the Lutheran church in the Holy Land. Sessions will lean on the historical record, ELCA social teachings on human rights, war, and the Israel-Palestine conflict, and the testimony of Israeli and Palestinian voices for peace.

Recommended Resources:

- **ELCA Social Message on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict* (1989)
- *Sumud: For Justice in Palestine and Israel — Ministry of the ELCA
- **Blood Brothers* by Elias Chacour with David Hazard
- **The Much-Too-Promised Land: America's Elusive Search for Arab-Israeli Peace* by Aaron David Miller

There are so many good ways to grow in faith and love of neighbor during February. I hope to see you often.

One final word...a word of thanks.

- ♦ Thank you to all who attended our Annual Meeting on January 28. We've had a good year of ministry together, and there was much to celebrate, which we did with a pile of hot dishes and an entire table of desserts.
- ♦ Thank you to outgoing council members Lynn Voss and Cody Salo. You were leaders in a time of great transition and some conflict, and you led with grace, wisdom, and good humor.
- ♦ Thank you to Kevin Mathews, who was our council president in 2023. You took up the mantle, never realizing that I'd be so ill that you'd have to lead in ways that most council presidents are never asked to. You have poured your heart and soul into this, and we have all benefited. Well done, good and faithful servant.

Pastor Trina

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

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

Stewardship Committee Launches Fundraising Campaign:
All Kids to Camp in 2024

*Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse,
that there may be food in my house.
Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty,
and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven
and pour out so much blessing
that you will not have room enough for it. Malachi 3:10*

Trusting in God’s promise through the prophet Malachi to throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out blessings beyond what we can imagine, we put forth a new and exciting challenge to the people of Our Redeemer’s! Starting in February, the Stewardship Committee will launch **a six-week campaign to raise funds to cover camp fees** for children and youth desiring to attend any of our Lutheran Bible camps. Money raised by our congregation will pay for all or part of the camp registration fees, depending on the number of applicants.

On-site camp at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp for Summer 2024 for elementary-aged kids is \$400-600, depending on how many nights they stay; middle and high school camps start at \$600, with the adventure camps costing more. **Our goal is to raise \$20,000**, and a group of generous donors, including the Women of the ELCA, have **pledged \$7,000 to this effort**. We are already a third of the way there!

Another goal of this campaign is to be able to offer assistance to children and youth who aren’t members of Our Redeemer’s. **Attending summer camp can be transformational** (ask our treasurer Tracey Tintinger about how it impacted her life), and we take seriously our Lord’s call to reach out to those who don’t yet know the Good News. So if our children and youth want to invite a friend along, we want to encourage their effort to share the story of Jesus and help their friends meet the One who loves us and saves us. Financial assistance for non-members will be offered for the weeks of camp that staff from Our Redeemer’s will be present (on-site June 23-28 and July 28-August 2, high school rafting trip July 21-26).

So give generously! We want everyone to have the experience that Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp and other Lutheran camps offer, regardless of finances. Our Redeemer’s staff Liz Swenson (liz@ourredeemerlives.org) and Steph Richardson (steph@ourredeemerlives.org) are ready to help you get your kids (and their friends!) signed up for camp. Please reach out to them or Pastor Trina for more information.

This is the first of three campaigns that the Stewardship Committee will lead us through in 2024. Stay tuned for more ways to support the ministry of Our Redeemer’s.



What makes Lutheranism unique in the landscape of Christianity? What are the guiding lights for Lutheran worship, sacraments, and social ethics? Why *do* we stand up and sit down all the time in worship? If any of these questions sound familiar, join the Young Adult Group on the first and third Tuesdays of every month at 6:30pm for education, conversation, and fellowship! In February, we are meeting at Lewis & Clark Brewing Co. (1535 Dodge Ave)

Contact Baird Linke (bairdlinke16@gmail.com or 406-465-9532) for information, and **stay tuned for details about child care starting in March!**

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

Our Redeemer’s Lutheran Church

3580 N Benton Ave
Helena, MT 59602
406.442.7842
www.ourredeemerlives.org

Ministry Team

Ministers: **All the People of God**

Pastor Trina Johnsten, Lead Pastor
Trina@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Lori Walter, Administrative Assistant
LoriW@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Sarah Magee, Director of Finance
Sarah@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Jason Callon, Director of Worship and Music
Jason@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Steph Richardson, Interim Director of Youth Ministry
Steph@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Liz Swenson, Director of Children and Family Ministry
Liz@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Linda Keim, Organist

David McHaley, Custodian

Carol Will, Deacon

Lori Bigwood-Pecarina, Lay 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

Wendy Vukonich, Preschool Teacher
Wendy@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Alenna Maw, Preschool Teacher
Alenna@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Marie Grissom, Preschool Teacher
Marie@OurRedeemerLives.Org

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:

Ingrid Childress, President
ichildress@bresnan.net
406-431-3344

Tracy Moseman, Second Vice President
mtmoseman@hotmail.com
406-431-4350

Tracey Tintinger, Treasurer
tvting@bresnan.net
406-459-8478

Linda Nelson, Secretary
ralinelson@yahoo.com
406-422-3751

Kevin Mathews, Past President
president@ourredeemerlives.org
406-465-1839

Julie Penner, Member at Large
julianne.penner@gmail.com
406-227-7096

Ed Johnson, Member at Large
edwardmartinjohnson62@gmail.com
406-492-6177

Jennifer Colegrove, Member at Large
colegrove@bresnan.net
406-465-3453

Sarah Sampson, Member at Large
sarahmarieirvin@hotmail.com
406-460-0133

Attila Foinagy, Member at Large
attilafolnagy@gmail.com
208-604-3198

Voice articles due on the 15th of each month
Thursday, February 15 at 5:00pm
LoriW@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Long Term Prayer Concerns

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

Our Members

Phyllis Bauer	Jim Haubein	Dale Mickus	Julie Mehl	Vicki Poore
Richard Carey	Carol Kimble	Nikki MacMillan	Ron Paulson	Laurie Simms
Roberta Carey	Mark Langdorf	Lorna Meyer	Jim Poore	Ruth Straley

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

Our Family and Friends

Luke Brown (brother of Charlie Brown)
Brandon Erickson (nephew of Janet & Glenn Erickson)
Sawyer Ewan (cousin of Mary & Mark Robertson)
Danny McCaughan (nephew of Lori & Dave Swenson)

Our Family and Friends Serving in the Military

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

Our Seminarians

Shawn, Sara, Addie & Kaden Juers



Lately, I’ve been listening to lectures on Martin Luther’s theology. I’m learning much I didn’t know and better understanding material I was familiar with. I’m particularly interested in better understanding Luther’s concepts of salvation and justification. To summarize what I’ve learned so far, Luther believed and taught that we are saved from sin and death as Christ comes to us in a very real way through hearing the Gospel message in faith. *Hearing* the Gospel was key for Luther.

By the way, the Greek word for gospel, which means “good news,” is “euangelion.” This is where we get the English word “Evangelical.” Early followers of Martin Luther’s movement, which emphasized salvation by faith in the Gospel message, were called Evangelicals. In Germany, they still are. Our Redeemer’s, of course, is a member of the *Evangelical* Lutheran Church in America. That name reflects our focus on the Gospel, the Good News that:

God loves the world (including you and me) so much that…
God became human (while simultaneously remaining God - God can do anything!) and…
willingly and without resistance suffered unmerited torture and death…
to free all of us from sin and death…
so that we can live forever with God.

Rather than the “good news,” we should refer to that message as the “best news.” I can’t think of anything better. But notice that ‘news,’ by definition, must be shared. Until it’s shared, it’s only knowledge. Good News is vastly more beneficial than Good Knowledge.

Try to imagine a world where every person shares the core knowledge of their immeasurable value as a wildly beloved child of God, who created and is above and within all things. Try to imagine a world where every person continually hears that Good News so that Christ is actually present in them. It’s hard to imagine. One might just as well try imagining a world where wolves and lambs and calves and lions hang out together while bears graze with cows nearby (see Isaiah 11:6-7). Or where all tools of aggression and violence have been recycled into tools for caring for and feeding people (see Isaiah 2:4).

It might be easier to begin by imagining *yourself* beloved by God - all the time, regardless of what you do or don’t do, or what you or anyone else thinks about you. Imagine you are a vessel carrying the actual presence of Christ. You know this. As a member of Our Redeemer’s, you have heard over and over this Good News, and you have trusted in God’s promise knowing God doesn’t lie. You have countless times received the true presence of Christ in the communion meal.

Knowing all this, imagine what you could do to share Christ’s light and life. Imagine the people of Our Redeemer’s equipping each other to share the Good News. Imagine the people in and around Helena all flocking to Our Redeemer’s to receive Christ - and all that Christ has to offer - as they hear the Good News, eat the bread and drink the wine, and witness the results of Christ’s presence in our individual lives and in our life together. Imagine that! Then, imagine yourself in the midst of this grand celebration, contributing to the joy with God’s gifts to you while being regenerated by the joy of those around you. Imagine, and remember that imagination is seed for reality.

Kevin Mathews

Communion Education

Classes will be held for children in **Second** through **Fourth** grade and **any** other families interested in learning about Holy Communion.

Please save these dates:

- ⇒ **March 17 @ 1:00** - *Fed and Forgiven*: An instructional time for both communicant and parents about Holy Communion.
- ⇒ **Palm Sunday, March 24 @ 8:30am OR 11:00am** - We invite the children and their families to attend one of the two services to celebrate their deepened understanding of communion and for those who are not yet communing, to receive their First Communion.



An invitation will be sent to all second, third and fourth grade children and their families. If you have any questions, please contact Liz at liz@ourredeemerlives.org or Pastor Trina at trina@ourredeemerlives.org.

February Schedule



- 4 Sunday School—Good Samaritan
- 11 Sunday School—Good Samaritan
- 14 Ash Wednesday Worship @6:30
- 18 No Sunday School!
- 25 Sunday School—Good Samaritan

Vacation Bible School 2024

Theme: SCUBA: Diving into friendship with God!

Dates: June 10 - 14, 2024

Hours: 9:00am - Noon, Monday through Friday



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

<https://forms.gle/ZsVRqrmizqAeZKEZ6>

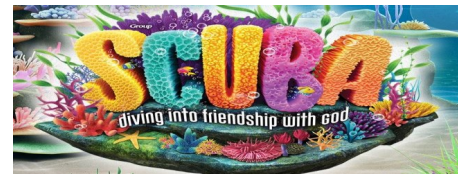


Also...we need **YOUR HELP!** We are in need of **VOLUNTEERS** to make VBS possible. Here are the following areas we need help:

- ♦ Crafts
- ♦ Classroom Leaders
- ♦ Classroom Assistants
- ♦ Games
- ♦ Kitchen
- ♦ Decorating
- ♦ Set-up and Clean-up Assistance



Contact Liz for more information,
liz@ourredeemerlives.org.



February BIRTHDAYS

2/1 Heidi Fohnagy	2/8 Eleanor Byrne	2/13 Jim Anderson	Christie Helley
Brit Linder	Hunter Henschel	Kathleen Ford	Lilian Keeton
Adalynn Smith	Brennan Jensen	2/15 Phyllis Bauer	Dan McLean
Cindy Steinmetz	Linda Read	Scott Erickson	2/22 Claire Boe
Wayne Weikart	Bella Yearry	Cathy Grace	Billea Dunn
2/2 Cayden Dorrington	2/9 Marie Rauch	Ava Meldrum	2/23 Rick Chapman
Dylan Maharg	2/10 Dennis Heffner	Hannah Robertson	2/24 Toni Guay
Karen Nelson	2/11 Brooke Ark	2/16 Wayne Gabbert	Seth McDaid
Julie Peck	Rachel Baranek	Delores Rosin	2/25 Bill Engle
2/3 Amy Heuiser	Bryan Bergquist	2/17 Logan Colegrove	Phyllis Michelson
Gail McKinnon	Jerry Guay	Lynsey McHugh	2/27 Nathanael Hafer
Signe Richardson	Ashleigh Heimbach	Matty Meldrum	Pauline Knatterud
2/4 Eileen McLane	2/12 Izaak Dike	2/18 Sydney Barry	Anna Young
2/5 Todd Passage	Kayla Forgey	Chad Richards	2/28 Charlee Beto
2/6 Anthony McAlpin	Kent Haab	2/19 Dan Rispens	
Gerritt Merrill	Dwight Hiesterman	2/20 Linda Gaughan	
2/7 Bryce Beley	Alicia Reber-Jensen		
Janine Robertson			



January Anniversaries
Celebrate with those married
40 years or more this month!

2/26/1977	Clayton & Kathy Schenck	47 years
2/4/1974	Gene & Kathleen Ford	50 years
2/16/1974	Ron & Donna Greenwood	50 years

90+ years old

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

Delores Rosin (age 92)	Phyllis Bauer (age 102)
915 Saddle Drive #126	4390 1/2 N Montana Ave.
Helena, MT 59601	Helena, MT 59602-7231



Deaths

- 12/9/2023 Lloyd Douglas Teigen
- 1/3/2024 Linda Alice Huso
- 1/21/2024 Thea Margaret Swenson

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 or 406-442-7842.

Like our Children's Ministry Facebook page to stay in the loop!



Did You Know?

Karen Darlow and Rose Oelkers, from Plentywood and Culbertson respectively, have been members of Our Redeemer's for years, years and years. In fact, Rose says she has known every Pastor of our congregation who came after the first one. Both moved to Helena when they were offered employment opportunities. Although they have been friends for years and years, too, it was in 2007 when they embarked upon a journey together, quilting for ELCA World Relief.

Karen estimates that Rose has quilted or assisted in quilting over 7,000 quilts since 1984. Together with the very welcomed assistance from other folks like Connie and Nikki from time-to-time, they quilt over 250 quilts a year. In May of each year a semi-truck begins a journey from Missoula to Minneapolis and stops at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church to pick up their quilts. The quilts are sent all over the world and believe-it-or-not they noticed in a recent publication about Ukraine a box labeled World Relief sitting in the background.

They also send their quilts to God's Love and the Fort Harrison cemetery pavilion. Recipients have told them that although the pavilion shelter has a roof, the wind blows freely from all directions, but they have been kept warm with their quilts.

In addition to their quilting ministry, both have been active at times in WELCA and its activities, including the annual bazaar and funerals. It has been routine to see them busy in the kitchen and serving coffee and lemonade during congregational pot lucks.

When asked how others can help them with this ministry, they chimed "join us every Tuesday morning at 9:00am.in the Sewing Room." Both explained that over the years the quilting materials have become expensive and cash, fabric, and thread donations are very welcome, too.

Bless Karen and Rose for their long-standing ministry. We can only imagine the gratitude of those folks who receive these gifts of love and friendship. "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."



CRAFTING NIGHT

Do you enjoy crafting but can't seem to find the time or space? Join us for a fun evening of crafting and fellowship in the Community Room. Bring your project and work away. We will be meeting on March 1 from 6:30pm until about 10:00pm. If you have questions, call Lori at 406-431-5906.



All Youth Winter Retreat

What: We will be busy with all sorts of things... hiking, devotionals, meditative time, sledding, sauna sitting (optional) , polar plunging (optional), possibly doing the Flathead Lake Alpine Coaster, crafts, and Bible studies.

When: Depart from the church the morning of Saturday, February 17. Return to the church the evening of Monday, February 19.

Where: Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

Who: This is an all youth retreat for 6 - 12 grade. Sometimes High Schoolers and Middle Schoolers will be separated, and sometimes we will all be together for things like meals. FRIENDS ARE WELCOME TO COME!

Cost: \$100/person. This includes transportation, lodging, food, and all activities. This fee is due to the church by February 11. DO NOT LET \$\$ stand in your way. The church will make this happen for any who want to attend.



Register: Follow this link or scan the QR code to register before February 11, 2024.



High School Summer Raft Trip

What and Where: The outdoor adventure guides at FLBC (Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp) will be guiding us on the North Fork of the Flathead River. We will float down 58 wild and scenic miles of one of the most stunning and pristine river corridors in the American west between Glacier National Park and the Flathead National Forest. At night, camp will be set up on the banks of the river. This is an amazing trip to see God's beautiful creation!

When: Depart from the church the morning of July 21. We will drive to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp where we will begin the adventure. We will be returning to the church the evening of July 26.

Who: High Schoolers and their friends are welcome to join us! Those entering High School in the Fall of 2024 are considered High School for this trip.

Cost: This is determined by your fundraising efforts. Steph will provide fundraising opportunities for the youth to cover the cost to go between February-June. A \$100 deposit is required to sign up. If you wish to not do any fundraising, then the cost will be \$750 due to FLBC just before the trip. The deposit is applied to the total cost of the trip that is due to FLBC.



HUNGER TEAM NEWS

FAMILY PROMISE WEEK

Our Redeemer’s will be hosting Family Promise guests the week of February 4-11. Each hosting week requires about 20-30 volunteers. We need several volunteers to set up the rooms on February 4 after 11:00 worship and tear down rooms before 8:30 worship on February 11. We also need five persons to prepare meals and leave them at the Day Center (2814 Cooke) between 11:00am and 2:00pm on Sunday-Thursday. We also need two overnight hosts for each evening, Sunday-Saturday. If you would like to volunteer or need more information about our responsibilities, please contact our Volunteer Coordinators, Kathy Olson (406-431-8686) or Phyllis Michelson (406-437-1217). Donations for extra expenses occurred during the week may be given to Our Redeemer’s with a designation for Family Promise. Your willingness to help our unhoused neighbors is greatly appreciated.

HELP US FEED HELENA

Our community garden continues to produce healthy produce, year after year. And over 2000 pounds of fruit and vegetables were donated to Helena Food Share in the 2023 season. In order to continue this vital ministry to our community, we need a garden volunteer coordinator who can begin to work with volunteers in the late spring. If you love to dig in the dirt and don’t mind managing a group of eager volunteers (Carroll College students, Hunger Team members, Boy Scouts, VBS students, other gardeners, etc.), you might be just the person for the job. There are people on this team with lots of garden expertise. We just need someone to coordinate all our fantastic volunteers. If you wish more information, contact Vicki Downhour (406-465-2197).

GOD’S LOVE

Winter has a way of smacking us right in the face. It has driven many folks inside at God’s Love and to sleeping on their floor at night [approximately 37 additional persons on the floor each evening]. Their needs are high right now due to weather and increased demand for shelter. These are items of special need at this time:

- loaves of bread [high demand]
- cold/flu medicines, including Tylenol, throat lozenges, cough drops
- Winter gear/warm boots/hygiene products always needed

A shout out of thanks to the Sunday School children who collected \$54 in December to purchase socks for God’s Love. This amount, along with an anonymous monetary donation, allowed us to deliver 23 pairs of warm socks and five stocking hats to the shelter. The wonderful people seeking refuge at God’s Love are thankful and express nothing but kindness when we drop off donations. Every bit helps!

KID PACKS/HELENA FOOD SHARE

The first three Tuesdays of each month, October-April, a crew of volunteers walk in circles to assemble the Kid Pack bags. This all takes place at the Helena Food Share Warehouse, located at Oakes and Railroad Avenue. The bags, full of nutritional goodies, are distributed each Friday to the elementary schools. These bags provide supplemental weekend food to any child needing assistance. It is an amazing program and we are blessed to help with this endeavor. It is a low pressure and fun-filled activity. You pick the Tuesdays you can make it. There is no obligation to be there each time. And it takes an hour to perhaps an hour and a half. The time depends on the number of folks who show and the number of pallets we fill. To date, halfway through the school year, we have filled 11,880 bags, and volunteers have given 255 hours of their time! WOW! If this piques your interest and you would like to try it, please contact Judy McMaster (judy1950@bresnan.net).

LET’S GET POPPIN’

Yes, Helena Food Share is requesting microwave popcorn packets for the Kid Pack program during the month of February. As we all know, this is a popular treat and a special offering for each Kid Pack. Just leave your donations in the crates by the Helena Food Share display in the hallway. And thanks for all those individual packets of fruit snacks you donated last month.

2024 RETREATS & EVENTS

Jan 12-15	Family/Youth Ski & Board Retreat
Jan 29-31	Partnering with NRIT Theological Retreat with Dr. Kaethe Schwehn, St Olaf professor
Feb 10	Tea Party Fun! 2-4 PM
Mar 15-16	Confirmation Retreat
Apr 14-16	Adult Spiritually Retreat
May 12	Mother’s Day Brunch
May 24-27	Memorial Weekend Work & Family Retreat
June 7-9	Women’s Retreat with Pastor Julia Seymour
June 8	Partners Luncheon
June 9	Neighbors & Friends Dinner
Aug 30-Sept 2	Labor Day Family & Work Retreat
Aug 30-Sept 2	“Pack & Pray” Adult Backpacking Trip
Oct 11-12	Delegate/Ambassador Training
Oct 12	Fund Raising Event!!
Oct 12	Annual Meeting
Nov 3-5	Pastors/LPA’s/Deacons – Lectionary Retreat with Rev. Karoline M. Lewis, Ph.D.- Luther Seminary
Nov 7-10	Quilting/Crafts Retreat
Dec 27-29	Staff Alumni & Young Adult’s Retreat
Dec 29	Chili Dip @ Noon! Community invited to take a dip in the lake & eat chili!

office: 406.752.6602 • fax: 406.752.6670 • email: office@flbc.net • www.flbc.net





Family Promise of Greater Helena

20% of event sales will be donated

Our mission is to support children and their families as they overcome homelessness.



When

Saturday, February 24, 2024

Time: 10:30 AM to 9:30 PM

Where

Panda Express located at:

**3075 N. Sanders St. Helena MT 59601
(406) 449 - 8898**

How to Order



Online

**PandaExpress.com or the App.
Enter 366761 in the fundraiser code box**

or



In-Person

**Bring paper flyer or show it on
your smartphone**

Order ahead or on the event day Saturday, February 24, 2024



Health and Safety

Committed to your health and safety. Panda Express
is recognized as **America's safest restaurant brand.**

Participating fundraiser guests are required to present a valid fundraiser flyer (paper copy or digital image) with each order to receive credit towards the fundraiser. Flyers may not be distributed inside or within the vicinity of the restaurant including, without limitation to, the restaurant parking lot before or during the fundraiser. Panda Restaurant Group reserves the right cancel any and all fundraiser events, if the Panda Restaurant Group Fundraiser Guidelines are not followed. Panda Restaurant Group will donate 20% of all purchases made, pre-tax and before fees, at the designated date, time, and your Panda Express location when purchased with your unique code at check-out or when a copy of this flyer is presented. Purchase(s) of gift cards do not count towards the fundraiser, but purchases made with gift cards will count. No portion of purchase is tax deductible.

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CAREGIVER'S SUPPORT GROUP DATE CHANGE

A small group of individuals who provide support for loved ones meets monthly at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church in the Conference Room. We will meet on Sunday, February 25 at 12:10pm, after the second worship service. We gather for an hour to share stories, challenges, and successes.



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
or Jane Peachey 234-567-1461

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP



The grief group will meet on February 11, between services. Grief is not an easy journey and has no magic steps. Walking beside others who are finding their way can be helpful. Hearing others' stories can sometimes encourage you or help you realize you are progressing. For others, the stories give hope of getting through the journey. Wherever you are, feel free to join us or invite others.

If you have questions or need to talk, feel free to call Lori Bigwood-Pecarina 406-672-2470 or Jane Peachey 234-567-1461

Touchmark Worship Services

Our Redeemer's members provide a worship and communion service monthly at Touchmark Retirement Community. We will meet Tuesday, February 20 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 at Touchmark, you are welcome to attend. Touchmark is located at 915 Saddle Drive.

ASH WEDNESDAY AT TOUCHMARK

Our Redeemer's will offer an Ash Wednesday service at Touchmark Retirement Community on February 14, at 10:00am in the forum. All are welcome for this time of reflection, meditation, and imposition of ashes.



A new year, the same challenge...finding an Associate Pastor that fits the needs of our congregation. The Call Committee gathered in January to touch base since we haven't met as a team since our efforts last fall to bring in a viable candidate. 2024 is an exciting year for our church and we are hopeful that we can bring forward a candidate that can join right in on all the excitement. So far there is nothing new to report and we are still in that waiting state; praying for a wonderful pastor to review all Our Redeemer's has to offer and wanting to explore those opportunities with us. Remember, we are YOUR call committee and if there are any new concerns you want to make sure we address, please do let us know. Thank you for keeping us, our efforts, and those possible candidates in your prayers.

Abby McLane, chair; Kristi Antosh, Lori Chase, Dee Dee Fischer, Shauna Helfert, Dwight Hiesterman, and Craig Linke



Financial Review

Because of strong financial giving during the month of December, the Council paid the full Building Fund amount of \$16,946.89 and the full Dedicated Fund amount of \$4,691.25. They also sent \$7,583.93 to the Montana Synod, bringing our total 2023 contribution to the Synod to \$10,000, which is approximately 2% of Our Redeemer's income for 2023. The Council recognizes that many other Benevolence opportunities were well supported throughout 2023, including generous contributions to the Gideons, Christikon, Lutheran Campus Ministry - MSU, Freedom in Christ Prison Ministry, and Helena Food Share.

Ministry Team

Staff members submitted their annual reports, which will be available to the congregation prior to the annual meeting on January 28. All reports were positive, indicating growth in all areas of church involvement. And as we grow, each ministry recognizes challenges that they will face in the upcoming year.

Committee Reports

Most committees are functioning well, and others should be in full operation within the next month or so. Julie Penner reported that 118 families have completed information for the church directory. Another chance to update information and obtain photos will be provided during the church potluck, prior to the annual meeting on January 28. Soon after that date, paper copies will also be available for those who desire that format.

New Business

- A draft of the annual meeting agenda was discussed, with minor suggestions for improvement.
- There was some discussion about moving the annual meeting to February in 2025, providing extra time for compilation of annual reports. That decision will be made later in the year.
- Baird Linke's hours have been increased to 30 hours per week, through Holy Week, while he awaits a call to his first parish. He will be primarily assisting with worship, with the Hunger Team Lenten book study, with creating adult education opportunities through May and with the Young Adult Fellowship.
- The Council agreed to an annual Council retreat on Saturday, February 10, 9-12, for orientation of new Council members and further work on council reorganization.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Nelson

College Scholarship Application Form

PART 1: Basic Information Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Name of Parents: _____

Date of Birth: _____ High School Attended: _____

PART 2: Student Activities and Awards

Student Activities in High School:

High School Honors & Awards: _____

Our Redeemer's Activities: _____

PART 3: Financial Component and School Information

Other Scholarships Applied For:

Employment (if any): _____

College or university planning to attend (must be a four-year school):

How do you intend to finance your college education (please list any special circumstances):



WELCA College Scholarship Application

WELCA (Women of the ELCA) at Our Redeemer's offers a \$1,000 scholarship opportunity for high school seniors. This \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior from our congregation who will be attending a four-year "religious affiliated" college or university. Applicants are judged on leadership skills, student and community activities, financial need, academic promise and personal recommendations. You must be registered for at least one class in religion. Please ask for the application for further details. Applications are available in the church office or from Steph Richardson, Director of Youth Ministry.

Applications must be returned to the church office to Charlene Mayala, WELCA President. Deadline to apply is May 1, 2024.

College Scholarship Information

Qualifications:

A \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior from our congregation who will be attending a four-year "religious affiliated" college or university. The applicant will be judged on leadership skills, student and community activities, financial need, academic promise and personal recommendations. (You must be registered for at least one class in religion).

Instructions:

1. Complete the application form
2. Provide a letter of recommendation from two adults, one from within your church family.
3. Transcript from your last two years of high school
4. Deadline to apply is May 1. Please return your completed information in a manila envelope to the church office addressed to:

WELCA - President
College Scholarships

Payment of Scholarship:

The scholarship will be disbursed to the institution in one payment - \$1,000 at the beginning of your school year.

1. Student must carry a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester.
2. A GPA of 2.0 must be maintained
3. A copy of your college transcript must be sent to the following address at the end of your school year: WELCA, President, 3580 N. Benton Avenue, Helena, MT 59602
4. Student must provide WELCA the name of the school they will be attending and their student ID by August 1 of the year scholarship is awarded. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of scholarship.

Greetings From Preschool!

We have a lot going on the end of January and into February! Here is our update:



- **Preschool Fundraiser coming on Thursday, February 1! Panda Express** is offering an **day fundraiser for our preschool**. It's simple, all you need to do is place your order and 20% of each in-person sale will be donated to Our Redeemer's Preschool. **If ordering online, simply enter code 367299** and our preschool will receive 20% of the online sale.

These fundraisers assist us in the ability to enhance classroom materials, maintain our playground, supplement our tuition assistance funds and help us in many other ways.

Please mark your calendars; your support is greatly appreciated! **THANK YOU!!**

- **Our registration for the 2024-2025 school year begins Tuesday, February 6** for current students, alumni preschool families and church members. It will open on Tuesday, February 13 to the community.

Our Redeemer's Preschool offers classes for 3-, 4- and 5-year-old students (age as of September 10, 2023). We believe each child is unique and a precious child of God. Our classes are structured to provide age-appropriate learning opportunities for each child to experience success in a Christian setting. Our passion is to prepare children for life's adventures by letting them experience the joys of learning, friendships and God's love through both play-based and instructional methods.

Please visit our web page at <https://ourredeemerlives.org/preschool/> to learn more information about our program and classes. Our brochure and registration form may be downloaded, or hard copies are available in the Preschool office and church information center.

- **Parent-Teacher Conferences** are January 29 – 31. If you haven't signed up for your conference date yet, please do so on our preschool web page.
- **Tax receipts for tuition paid during 2023** will be given to parents at the Parent/Teacher conference.
- **If you would like to assist with Lunch Bunch** any or all days, M-Th, 11:00am-12:15pm, we love to have volunteers! This is a fun time for the children to interact and play with each other, eat their lunch and then go to class or go home. It's a popular option and is often full. A staff member is always present, a volunteer is a great help.

Kris Thatcher
Interim Preschool Director
406-442-7842 ext. 20

After serving us well for two years as the Interim Preschool Director, Kris Thatcher has let us know that she and Mark will be moving to Billings this summer. A good deal for her two sweet grandchildren who live there, but a bummer for us in so many ways. Kris will be with us through the end of the 2023-24 school year. We will begin the search for a new director in mid-February. If you have recommendations, please pass them on to Pastor Trina or Ingrid Childress, council president.

AD = Administrative Wing
CR = Classrooms
PS = Preschool

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6	2	3
7 9:00am - Men's Group - Conference Rm. 6:30pm - Confirmation Class 6:30pm - Youth Group	8 9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6 11:30am - Preventing Fraud in MT - Grt. Rm 5:30pm - Long-range planning committee	9	10 8:00am Council Retreat - Community Room
~~~~~ Family Promise Week ~~~~~ February 4 - 11 ~~~~~			
<b>14</b> 9:00am - Men's Group - Conference Rm. 11:30am - Women's Bible Study-Conf. Rm. 1:00pm - WELCA Bible Study - Great Rm <b>12:00pm - ASH Wednesday Worship</b> <b>6:30pm - ASH Wednesday Worship</b>	<b>15</b> <div>Voice Articles Due</div> 9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Middle School Retreat at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp - February 17-19
<b>21</b> 9:00am - Men's Group - Conference Rm. 6:30pm - Confirmation Class 6:30pm - Youth Group	<b>22</b> 9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6 5:30pm - Long-range planning committee <b>6:30pm - Holden Evening Prayer</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>28</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>29</b> 9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6 <b>6:30pm - Holden Evening Prayer</b>		