



Join us for 9:30am worship beginning Pentecost Sunday, May 28, 2023. The blended musical style offers something for everyone.

Outdoor worship is planned on June 18 and July 2.



# OUR REDEEMER'S

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### THE VOICE

May 2023



Once upon a time, in a valley surrounded by sentinel Rocky Mountains, a dedicated group of people known as Christians lived out their faith in a community called Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church.

The stories we tell ourselves, so I've heard, are important. A great deal of "reality" actually exists as stories in our heads. This is not to say stories aren't true; they generally are, even if rarely are they completely factually accurate. At the very least, "reality" is colored by our perceptions, which are influenced by myriad factors stored as stories in our minds. These perceptions, then, determine how we respond to our circumstances. Our responses, in turn, help shape our circumstances. You can see how circular and interconnected it all is.

Here are a few of the stories I associate with Our Redeemer's:

- As Christians, we have inherited a very powerful story, one that defines us. To the degree we allow it, it becomes central to our personal and corporate stories and, therefore, can and should shape our circumstances. That story, of course, is the Gospel, the good (exceedingly great!) news of God reconnecting us to the source of life through God's embodiment, death, and resurrection as the God/man, Jesus. From this meta-story, all other stories flow. It frees us from death and, therefore, from fear, liberating us to live in joyful communion with God and each other.
- We are children of God, created by God, made in God's image. Each one of us is loved beyond measure by the Creator of all things, regardless of anything we do or fail to do. And we do fail - a lot. But that doesn't matter because we aren't loved for what we do; we're loved for who we are.
- As inheritors of the Gospel story, we are also stewards of that story, with a responsibility to protect it, live it, and lavishly share it. So we take Jesus' last command to his gathered followers seriously: *go* and make more disciples. I personally believe this is the foundational purpose of Our Redeemer's and all other churches bearing the name of Christ. God's love heals and makes all things new. That is the nature of God, and God has chosen us to bring that Spirit to all the parts of the world in which God places us.

- We are people who strive to understand God's great love for us - a love that surpasses all understanding - and to respond in love. That loving response takes many forms, including worshipping together; praying; caring for each other; helping one another explore and understand and deepen and exercise our faith; sharing our stories, gifts, cares, and joys with one another.
- Our story is a beautiful, vast, living mosaic of innumerable stories of lives lived in relationship with God - past, present, and future. Though most of those stories will remain a mystery to us, on this side of heaven, many of them from the past have shaped us. Some of those stories we hold particularly dear, including those captured in the Bible, stories told by Luther and his successors, and the stories of those who founded and nurtured Our Redeemer's. We are privileged to add our own stories to all who have gone before, all who share this moment in time with us, and all who will come after us.
- We are God's presence in this world, partners in God's ongoing work of renewal, healing, and redemption. We are servants and co-creators, overflowing vessels of God's Spirit.
- We are an example of the present and coming Kingdom of God. We're a laboratory and a model for how God intends for us to live together as fellow humans. We are the city on a hill and the salt Jesus spoke of. We have the cure for the sickness that inflicts all of creation.

I wonder what stories are especially important to you in shaping the way you perceive our church. How do those stories affect the way you engage with and contribute to Our Redeemer's? Those aren't just rhetorical questions; I really would like to know. You can email me your thoughts at [president@ourredeemerlives.org](mailto:president@ourredeemerlives.org). In closing, here's one of my stories - a story of being blessed to be a part of a community with so many loving and generous people like all of you!

Kevin Mathews, Council President



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Helena, Montana

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

In the Garden

Ah, Spring, when the ground turns to mud and gardeners turn impatient. If you are looking for some soil to cultivate, you should rent a plot in the Our Redeemer’s Community Garden! Plots rent for \$25 (scholarships available) and come in a variety of sizes. Maybe garden with a friend who can weed while you are on vacation. Watering and tools are provided, mentoring is available - why not try it? Want more details? Contact Vicki at [greenxena@msn.com](mailto:greenxena@msn.com). Ready to commit? Garden agreements are available from either Vicki or Lori, in the church office.

Thank You to Boy Scout Troop #4207 for their commitment to help in the Our Redeemer’s Community Garden! They will cultivate a portion of the Helena Food Share plot. If you belong to a group that could serve in this way, or if you would like to help maintain the garden, please contact Vicki at [greenxena@msn.com](mailto:greenxena@msn.com). Zero expertise is required. Hunger Team needs more gardeners to continue this mission!

Maybe you are not the gardening type, but you want to support the mission to provide fresh produce to Helena’s food-insecure citizens. You can contribute to the garden fund! There is a special ‘Community Garden’ tab on the online giving page, or you can drop off a check in the church office.

Finally, check your garage (or wherever you stash treasures) for tomato cages you don’t use, walls of water, or anything that could be used as a robust, 5-foot stake for our substantial tomato plants! If you have anything that you believe may be useful, please contact Vicki.

Make the Udder Difference for Our Neighbors

The summer milk campaign will launch on Sunday, May 14. Pick up your milk bottles to hold all that loose change throughout the summer. Once again, our goal is to provide enough money to purchase all the milk for the kid packs program for the 2023-24 school year. Our goal for the summer is \$7000. The Hunger Team is still working on matching grant funds and should hear about those requests sometime before the campaign ends on August 31. We remain confident that each dollar you donate will be matched by other community partners.

KID PACKS

A HUGE “THANK YOU” FOR HELPING BUILD KID PACKS. April 18 wrapped up the assembling of Kid Packs for the 2022-23 school year. None of this could happen without the amazing volunteers from our church. What faithful servants they are! This year volunteers from Our Redeemer’s volunteered a total of 510 hours and assembled 25,592 bags, which filled 3199 crates. Bruce and Judy McMaster, and the entire Hunger Team send a huge shout-out to everyone who helped make this possible on those first three Tuesdays every month at Helena Food Share. All of you are truly a blessing.

GOD’S LOVE

THANK YOU for your continued support for God’s Love. Spring is here, and with warmer weather, folks tend to move to the hills or outside to enjoy the outdoors. As of now, God’s Love has 15 men’s beds filled and four women’s beds filled. God’s Love requires that all residents be employed full-time. With warmer days soon to be, God’s Love could really use the following:

- lighter weight spring/summer jackets
- summer weight socks
- hygiene products
- sweatshirts {men & women}
- small first aid kits [in high demand for those staying outside]
- bleach
- rain jackets or ponchos

Blessings to each and every one of you for your incredible generosity. It is appreciated by the Hunger Team and God’s Love.

Family Promise

Thanks to all who helped to make our Family Promise guests feel welcome at the end of April. Your hospitality makes a huge difference to homeless families in our community.

And now for a special time of fun and recognition for all of you who have volunteered with Family Promise in the last year:

You are invited to an ice cream social at Our Redeemer’s on May 23, 6:30pm.

If you have ever helped to set up rooms, prepared a meal, served as an overnight host, done the laundry, or hauled a trailer, you are part of the team.

Plan to join us for ice cream and a huge “THANK YOU!”

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

Our Redeemer’s Lutheran Church

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Ministry Team

Ministers: All the People of God

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Linda Keim, Organist

David McHaley, Custodian

Carol Will, Deacon

Lori Bigwood-Pecarina, Lay Pastoral Associate

Jan 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)

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Alenna Maw, Preschool Teacher  
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Marie Grissom, Preschool Teacher  
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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:

Kevin Mathews, President  
[president@ourredeemerlives.org](mailto:president@ourredeemerlives.org)  
406-465-1839

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406-460-0133

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

Monday, May 15 @ 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	Jim Haubein	Dale Mickus	Jim Poore	Thea Swenson
Richard Carey	Linda Huso	Nikki MacMillan	Vicki Poore	Tim Williamson
Roberta Carey	Pr. Trina Johnsten	Lorna Meyer	Laurie Simms	
Ann Harris	Carol Kimble	Ron Paulson	Ruth Straley	

Our Family and Friends

Zachary Ark	Jared Larsen (Ruth Reed's grandson)
Brandon Bach	Janessa and Maryssa Martin and Cheyene Bade
Victor Bachmier	(Roberta Carey's great nieces)
Lisa Bell (Lynnette Avery's niece)	Ricki McDanold (Denise Richards)
Julie Bliss (Nadine Sim)	Sharon McLane Ryan & Abigail McLane)
Steve Boyter	Julie Mehl (daughter of Dave Mehl)
Cody Carey (Richard & Roberta's great grandson)	Chris O'Connor (Cheri Goosen's cousin)
Tom Carter	Laura Oleson (Debbie Hurni's sister-in-law)
JLD (Gary and Joy Novota)	Elsie Phillips (Teresa Schulz's mother)
Karen Elliot (Chas Elliot's mom)	Evelyn Sabo (Janet Erickson's mother)
Stormy Flinders	Dorothy Tangen (Craig Erickson's aunt)
The Fox Family (Brooke Sampson)	Doug Williams (Leona Williams' son)
Tom Hammond (Sue Hill's dad)	Families of suicide victims
Carter Hasselbach (Friend of the Preschool)	
Donna Hurni (Neal Hurni)	
Chelsi Kral (Kim & Carl Anfinson's daughter)	
Larry Kuntz (Dave & Lori Swenson)	

Our Family and Friends Serving in the Military

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

Our Seminarians

Baird Linke  
Shawn, Sara, Addie & Kaden Juers



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP



This month's grief group will meet in the conference room on May 21<sup>st</sup> between services. All who would like a welcoming place to share their grief journey are welcome to join us. We will discuss summer schedule. If you have questions please call Jane Peachey 234-567-1461 or Lori Bigwood-Pecarina 406-672-2470.

God's Peace,  
Jane Peachey.

CAREGIVER'S SUPPORT GROUP



Caregivers share the gift of love on a daily basis. Our support group seeks to be a safe place to encourage and uplift those who provide for loved ones.

Please join us on Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:40am in the Conference Room next to the church offices. Lori Bigwood-Pecarina (406-672-2470) and Jane Peachey (234-567-1461) lead the group. We welcome your questions and calls.



Knitters for Peace



Are you a knitter? Would you like to learn how to knit? Knitters for Peace meet each Tuesday morning, 11am-1pm, usually in the Conference Room. (Otherwise, follow the noise and laughter until you locate this joyful group.) They knit for such charities as Lutheran World Relief, ORLC Shawl Ministry, the Giving Tree at the Cathedral of St. Helena, and the Red Scarf Project sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services. They also regularly provide knitted items for reservations, those in psychiatric facilities, and other local organizations.

The group always welcomes new members. If Tuesdays do not work for you, you will find this same group knitting away at Scenic Brew on Saturdays, 1-3pm. If you have questions, feel free to contact Linda Nelson at 406-422-3751.

P.S. Crocheters are also welcome.



The **Associate Pastor Call Committee** would like to thank all of you who attended our information-sharing sessions at the end of April. We feel comfortable that we have received some additional, valuable input from all of you regarding the traits/skills/talents you hope our Associate Pastor candidate will bring to the table for Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church. We plan to incorporate this additional information into the Ministry Site Profile and send it off to the synod in the next couple of weeks so that the synod can begin their work.

Additionally, we heard some concerns about the 'strictness' of the Call Process as was defined. We all know that change is inevitable, and this process is probably a bit different than previous call processes some of you may have been involved with. We plan to let the Holy Spirit guide us and follow this more rule-based process unless we encounter difficulties. Then, just as with Pastor Trina's call, we will utilize our resources within our church and the synod to ensure the positive results we seek.

If you recall from the Call Process document shared at the Information sharing sessions, much of the work after that submission will be with the synod. As a Call Committee, we do have a couple of items to work on while the synod does their search. One of these items is to develop our interview questions, but the second item also impacts you. We will be opening up the nomination process to the congregation so that if you are aware of a pastor somewhere that you think would be an ideal fit and a great colleague for Pastor Trina – we would like to forward that information to the synod. There will be a form included with the bulletins in May (14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>) so that if you feel so inclined to nominate an individual, you will have the opportunity to do so. Anyone responding to the request will be asked to provide a certain level of detail about the nominated pastor so the synod will be able to identify them and contact them directly. Please do not contact the nominee personally. That is the role of the synod office.

Thank you for your continued prayers.

Abby McLane (chair)	Kristi Antosh	Dee Dee Fischer	Larry Hanson
Shauna Helfert	Craig Linke	Dwight Hiesterman (alternate)	

The Perpetual Fund Committee is pleased to announce that grants and scholarships are available for qualified applicants and projects from the Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church Perpetual Fund and Seminary Scholarship Fund for 2023.

Awards from the Perpetual Fund are intended to enhance certain Our Redeemer's missions and ministries which have not received funding from the general or designated church giving. Examples of eligible activities include:

1. Missions of the ELCA at home and abroad, including professional leadership, educational ministries, global mission, and social ministries.
2. Outreach into the community, including grants to campus ministries, social service agencies, and special programs in our parish area who are in spiritual and/or economical need.
3. Scholarships or grants to members of ORLC for church-related education or church related leadership conferences, or such other training which enables members of this congregation to grow in Christian faith and service to God's people.

Seminary scholarship funds are available to Montana Lutheran students in good standing from local area churches who are enrolled or attending an ELCA seminary.

Call 406/449-2877 for additional information or clarification. Perpetual Fund electronic applications are available on the church website and must be submitted electronically to [loriw@ourredeemerlives.org](mailto:loriw@ourredeemerlives.org) or [jamesrpenner@gmail.com](mailto:jamesrpenner@gmail.com) by May 26, 2023.

Financial Review

Donations for the Ministry Fund during March were more than \$18,000 below the budgeted ministry plan for the month. Because the biannual property tax bill is due in May, the Council voted to withhold benevolence (\$1580), building fund (\$10,933) and dedicated fund (\$2382) payments for this month. Those payments will be paid at a later date.

Ministry Reports

Full reports were received from all staff. Pastor Trina continues to work with worship staff and other committees during this time of her recovery. The Council expressed its deep appreciation to all staff members who have assisted during this time and made plans for a special time of recognition for the staff early in May.

The preschool is almost full for the fall semester. In response to parental concerns about security, the preschool board decided to lock the outside door during school hours and provide a phone number for entry. Other safety and security matters will be addressed in the upcoming months.

Committee and Miscellaneous Reports

Property Development - Cody Salo

- The City has offered the church approximately \$1.6 million for property development for affordable housing. The original proposal was estimated at \$2.4 million. The committee is waiting for further monetary commitments from the city and county before proceeding. They will have informational sessions with the congregation once these figures are complete.

Hunger Team - Linda Nelson

- Students from Carroll College are working with the team to assist in planting seeds for the Helena Food Share plot the last 2 weeks in April.

Church Signage

- The committee has submitted a request to Signs Now for more complete details before proceeding with placing better signage for room locations in our building.

Constitution task force formation

- Jeanne McCoskery, Tom Johnson, and Mark Robertson have agreed to serve on this task force.
- Kevin Mathews has provided them with the initial documents for review.

June Synod Assembly

- Ingrid Childress and Kevin Mathews will attend as voting members, June 2 and 3. Others are welcome to attend as non-voting members.

Financial planning team

- The following people have agreed to participate on this team:
  - Jerry Hoover, leader
  - Clayton Schenck
  - Tracey Tintinger
  - Shauna Helfert
  - Jan Martin
  - Craig Erickson
  - Beth Johnson
- This team will prepare a financial plan for the next 3-5 years, to be shared with the Generosity Team and the Council as they carry out appropriate action plans.
- Kevin Mathews has provided the team with a charter of tasks to be completed, including both review and analysis of current and recent historical church financial data and projections of near and mid-term church expenses and income.

New Business

- NW energy gas line proposal
  - The federal government requires that the aging gas line that passes through our property be replaced as soon as possible. Northwest Energy will pay for all costs involved with this project.
  - The Council approved the latest proposal, which would move the existing line 15 feet to the north.
  - Northwest Energy plans to be finished by with this project by July.
- The council approved the 2023 confirmands for church membership
  - The following persons will be confirmed as voting members on Sunday, May 7:
    - ♦ Christian (CJ) Bomar
    - ♦ Eleanor Byrne
    - ♦ Joshua Griffeth
    - ♦ Nate Jensen
    - ♦ Sullivan Lynn
    - ♦ Morgan May
    - ♦ Ava Meldrum
    - ♦ Deagan Solan
    - ♦ Laila Steinhoff
    - ♦ Jake Willcut

Linda Nelson  
Council Secretary





MAY BIRTHDAYS

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

- 1 Carol Calkins

Audrina Combs

Teresa Schulz

2 Vicki Downhour

Joe Wadhams

3 Pastor Ron Paulson

Linda Winfield

4 Adeline Juers

Iris Ziegler

5 Parker Grundmeier

6 Libby Linder

Tizer Mummey

Kelly Robertson

Clayton Schenck

7 Jeff Martin
- 8 Alli Darlow

Bonnie Johnson

Jim McFarland

10 Mady DeFilippis

Amber Lamping

Pam Lemieux

11 Greg Johnson

Donna Thomas

13 Steven Ziegler

14 Linda Lynch

Dallas Miller

15 Gretchen Coble

Dan Gaughan

Marci Sim

Tami Wadhams
- 16 Fred Goughnour

Jenna Lauf

Mark Sharkey

Kimmy Skiftun

Kayleigh Starman

17 Richard Knatterud

Codie Rummel

18 Lisa Williams-Mathews

19 Kennedy Bartole

Carol Kimble

Lexi MacMillan

20 Charlie Gustovich

Katie Lindner

21 Sawyer Glueckert

Pat Keim

22 Donald Gilbertson
- 23 Rocky Forseth

Sharon MacMillan

Gary Novota

24 Carl Anfinson

25 Chace Bingham

26 Merlyn Huso

27 Bill Goosen

28 Cameron Dole

Colton Dorrington

Linda Robbins

Mykaylee Verworn

29 Liz Bacon

Cody Smith

30 Judy Golob

31 Bob Calkins

Renee Liston

Clair Schilling



**Did you know...** There is a team of “older guys” who meet for an hour or so every Wednesday morning to discuss any issue that comes to their mind. They often talk about folks in our church who willingly volunteer to do activities that enhance the many Our Redeemer’s ministries and our mission. However, you might not know some of these folks because they work behind the scenes and do not seek or need any acknowledgment. So, each month one of us interviews one of the folks that come to mind and shares with you some little-known facts about them.

**Did you know...** Charlene and Jerry Mayala were married by Pastor Lowell Anderson in 1995. Since then Jerry has referred to Charlene as a “professional volunteer.” Here are some reasons why.

Charlene (and Jerry, too) have been members of the Our Redeemer’s choir since they joined the church. During this time, Charlene has also been a member of the Worship Committee. She was instrumental in securing a grant that created the Worship and Arts director position and advocated for continuing the position with church funding after the grant funds elapsed.

During her extra time, she became close friends with Delores Rosin. She asked Delores to show her around the kitchen and teach her the “how to” of church kitchen operations. Charlene said Delores was the best mentor she could have asked for and that a lovely, lasting relationship has evolved from their shared devotion to Christian hospitality.


Charlene has been a member of WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Church of America) for ten years. Most notably, she has been a servant leader in the planning and execution of the annual bazaar, which raises funds for many, many extracurricular activities associated with Our Redeemer’s Lutheran Church ministries.

As a member of the Altar Guild, Charlene was often involved in the design and equipping of the sanctuary and continues to assist with updating the altar supplies as needed for various seasons and activities.

Vacation Bible School was one of Charlene’s true loves. It was common to see her and other volunteers preparing ideas and props for each VBS season. Her creativity and enthusiasm were contagious.

She has been a specific team coordinator for every Capital Campaign the church has conducted since deciding to relocate to Benton Avenue. She is remarkable in recruiting volunteers for the team function for which she was the team leader. As she puts it, I have a knack for “cold calling for God.”

If you would like to get ahead of getting the “cold call” please call Charlene at 406-465-0956 and volunteer to engage in any of the current activities noted above.



Anniversary Blessings


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

5/25/1974	Linda & Randy Coty	49 years
5/19/1979	Roger & Liz Bacon	44 years
5/31/1980	Richard & Pauline Knatterud	43 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.



At a meeting held March 13<sup>th</sup>, the Helena City Commission voted to allot \$1.58 million of their ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding to the Our Redeemer's housing project, an application brought to the commission by Rocky Mountain Development Council (RMDC). This is a very generous commitment by city government to our project, which is encouraging, and thank you letters have been issued by the church council to all commission members and the mayor.

While this is an encouraging start, the allotment does fall short of the \$2.4 million that was being requested to cover property acquisition and the installation of Horseshoe Bend – both necessary steps in preparing the property for development. This means that Our Redeemer's and our housing partners are seeking and assessing solutions for getting close to this \$2.4 million mark to kick-start the project. Our housing partners have begun discussions with county commissioners to see if there might be an opportunity to gain financial commitment from the county to pair with the city's commitment. The county is currently assessing whether they will be soliciting external funding requests from community organizations for remaining county ARPA funds. Information on eligible projects and the application process through the county are expected soon.

The Property Development Team is hopeful that we will know more about subsidized funding by this summer sometime so that the church can begin negotiating the property sale. Any negotiated sale of the property will require approval by congregational vote. If negotiations are successful, RMDC (acting as lead developer) would be granted permission to take the project through the subdivision process which is required before final sale of the property can happen. The subdivision process is expected to take about one year, after which time the property would be sold to RMDC for development. It is expected that, following the sale of the property, the Property Development Team would continue to act in an advisory/partner role as RMDC further develops the plans for affordable housing on the property.

Over the last couple of months, members of the Property Development Team and our housing partners have also been in negotiations with Northwestern Energy. Northwestern Energy is currently under obligation to replace the high-pressure gas line that runs across the ORLC property. While a number of options for where to locate the replacement pipe were considered, in accordance with the civil engineer's recommendations, we have elected to have NWE replace the pipe just 15' north of the existing pipe location. The corresponding 30' easement for the pipe will be revised after installation to keep the pipe at the centerline of the easement. This will require some rework of the concept housing layout completed for the PAR (Preliminary Architectural Report), but will ultimately be less impactful to the project than routing the line along the Horseshoe Bend right-of-way would have been. You will see construction of this replacement gas line taking place this summer. It is likely that the southeast corner of our parking lot will be removed during the construction process. It will be replaced by NWE after completion of the pipeline installation.

The Property Development Team includes the members listed below. If you have any questions about the development planning, please reach out to one of these team members.

Jerry Hoover	Cody Salo	Gretchen Krumm	Sharon Haugen
Del Schubring	Jan Martin	Nelson Bock	Bonner Armstrong



**May Bible Study**  
Our May study is entitled, "Love in action: The art of intergenerational hospitality," which is a one-session devotional based on Paul's letter to the Romans. We will learn that we all have the capacity to help others feel welcome and to accept this welcome for ourselves.

**Dorcas Bible study:** Tuesday, May 16 at 10:00am

**Rebecca Bible study:** Wednesday, May17 at 1:00pm

Both groups meet in the Conference Room.

We welcome new members and visitors to join us.

**The WELCA Board:** Tuesday, May 9 at 10:30am

**Quilting for Lutheran World Relief:** Tuesdays at 9:00am

**Sew in Love Service Group:** Thursdays at 9:00am

**Scholarships to Flathead Bible Camp**  
WELCA is again offering a scholarship to any student in the congregation who needs financial assistance to attend Flathead Bible Camp this summer. Applications are available in the narthex and should be turned in to the church office. The deadline for receiving applications is **May 1**.

## Altar Guild Schedule

DATE 2023	CLEAN/PREP Before Sunday	SET UP FOR 8:30 and RESET for 11	CLEAN UP AFTER 11:00	OTHER INFO
May 7	Sonya	Kristi	Shannon	White Paraments
May 14	Sonya	Charlene	Sharon	White Paraments
May 21	Lisa	Charlene	Lisa	White Paraments
DATE	CLEAN/PREP Before Sunday	SET UP FOR 9:30 service	CLEAN UP AFTER 9:30 Service	OTHER INFO
May 28	Lisa	Kristi	Lisa	Memorial Day Weekend Pentecost Red Paraments



# MEET THE GRADUATES

## **Kennedy Bartole**

Kennedy is the daughter of Michael and Shannon Bartole and is graduating from Capital High School. Kennedy is graduating an entire year early from high school and is on the honor roll. She stays busy helping with Special Olympics and being on Ski Patrol at Great Divide Ski Area on the weekends. Kennedy has been an active youth at Safehouse, leading younger youth at retreats, volunteering at Vacation Bible School and the Intergenerational Christmas Event. She loves caring for little children which is reflected in her willingness to work in the nursery on Sunday mornings and in the part time job she holds at a local day care.

Kennedy plans on attending Helena College next fall with plans to be a pediatric registered nurse.

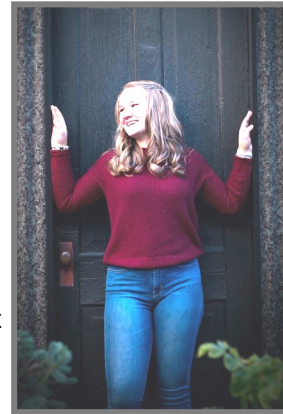


## **Kalley May**

Kalley is the daughter of Christopher and Kayme May and is graduating from Helena High School. Kalley is a HHS Class of 2023 Valedictorian active in National Honor Society, Bengal Softball, and Girl Scouts. She recently completed her Gold Award Project to improve the softball fields at HHS, including new backstops and landscaping.

Kalley has an eye for design and gets her inspiration regularly from HGTV shows while she sings to Disney movie theme songs. Some of Kalley's favorite memories from Our Redeemer's are the youth group Passion Mime, Kid Pack Assembly at Helena Food Share, and retreats at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp.

Kalley will be attending Montana State University to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Design, and Associates Degree in Interior Design, and a Masters in Architecture.



## **Connor W. Brown**

Connor is the son of Charlie Brown and is in the first graduating class from East Helena High School. Connor enjoys playing both tennis and soccer and has been Captain of both teams. He went to state the last 2 years in tennis and hopes to 3-peat this year. He's also working at a construction company performing office duties. He was also a student leader this fall at the Confirmation Retreat at Canyon Ferry Lake.



Conner plans on attending Montana State University in Bozeman, MT next fall studying Business.

## **Jacob Spangenberg**

Jacob is the son of Eric Spangenberg and Kristi Wolter and is graduating from Capital High School. Jacob enjoys any number of Outdoor activities including fishing, hunting, and boating with friends. When indoors, Jacob always enjoys a good pick-up game of basketball.

Jacob plans on attending Montana Technological University (MT Tech) in Butte, MT next fall.



## **Lauren Wetherell**

Lauren is the daughter of Kale and Sharlene Wetherell and is graduating from Helena High School. Lauren lettered in Varsity Track at HHS. She also enjoys kids and likes to babysit when she can. She loves her family and spending time with them.

Next fall, Lauren plans to attend college at Montana State University in Bozeman.



# Congratulations CLASS OF 2022

## Greetings From Preschool!

We cannot express enough gratitude for the generous support of our preschool. The Silent Auction garnered an unprecedented \$4,100!!! This, along with all the support given to our other fund-raising efforts this year, has been tremendous and is so very helpful to our preschool program. Those volunteering with Lunch Bunch, in our classrooms, and bringing in books, toys, etc., are all invaluable. ❤️



**The sound of music is in the air!** Our preschool children will sing at our 8:30 and 11:00 services on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Their artwork for the year will also be on display in the Great Room from May 15<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>. They are excited to sing and show how much they have learned and grown; please mark your calendars for this fun event!

**Our fall registration numbers are good,** and we still have openings in the afternoon 4-year-old class and some in the M/W three-year-old class; only two openings in our afternoon PreK. All other classes are full! Please spread the word every chance you get, as our goal is to fill every space! Registration and details are on our webpage; they may always call us at 406-442-7842, ext. 20, and visit with Kris Thatcher.

**We're excited to announce our Summer Preschool Fun camps!** These camps are multi-age programs that provide a full week of exciting projects, adventures, and activities. The camps are designed for:

Children who turned 3 by September 2022 **and** have completed a year of preschool.

Children who are 4 and 5 years old regardless of preschool attendance.

Children who will complete kindergarten this year.



**Class size is limited to 12, so register early!**

### Camp Offerings

#### **Montana Wildlife**

**June 19-23**

**9:00am – Noon**

Learn about the animals that call our state home.

#### **Crafty Crafts**

**June 26-30**

**9:00am – Noon**

We will enjoy discovering and showing that amazing creativity! Lots of painting, drawing and outdoor fun!

#### **Sweet Treats**

**July 17-21**

**9:00am – Noon**

Discover the sweet science of baking through hands-on projects and imaginative outdoor play.

#### **Summer Games**

**July 24-28**

**9:00am – Noon**

Create and play new summer games together, along with classic pastimes of the season.

Session cost is \$140 for the first session and \$130 for additional sessions or for siblings. This fee covers all supplies, a daily snack, and a special Preschool t-shirt! Registration forms and details are on the preschool webpage and in brochures throughout the church.

**Come join us for some summer fun!**





Keeping our promise,  
we teach children to: love God,  
love and serve each other,  
learn and share God's story.

## First Communion



Seven 2nd-4th graders were given Communion instruction and took part in a special Communion service on Maundy Thursday. Congratulations!!



## Easter Children's Activities



The Easter Children's Choir sang beautifully during the 8:30 service on Easter Sunday!



During both services on Easter Sunday, youth of our congregation lead our way into worship with colorful ribbon tassels!



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL DONATIONS

Would you like to help bring God's word to 100 families?!



Did you know about 50% of the children who attend VBS are guests? What a great evangelist event! Check out the VBS board found in the hallway outside the sanctuary!

## YOUR HELP IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Contact Liz (liz@ourredeemerlives.org) for



April 30th- Last day of **Sunday School**

**KidTime** runs all Summer!!

June 12th-16th -Vacation Bible School!



Have a great Summer!!

Please keep an eye on your email and newsletter. We will plan to have a couple of outdoor events as a group this summer!

Contact Liz, to be put on the email list at liz@ourredeemerlives.org.



# Confirmation Sunday

## May 7, 2023

## Thank You!

We celebrate with the following students who will be affirming their baptism in 2023:

*Christian John David Bomar*

*Eleanor Addison Bryne*

*Joshua Colin Griffeth*

*Nate Hawkeye Jensen*

*Sullivan Walter Lynn*

*Morgan Avery May*

*Ava Lon Meldrum*

*Deagan Albert Solan*

*Laila John Steinhoff*

*Jake Lorren Willcut*

I am deeply thankful for all who make our Confirmation University program happen! In this transitional year, we've had a great team coordinating and teaching lessons throughout the year! Thank you to Liz Swenson, Dennis Trotter, and Pr. Trina for collaborating with me in this ministry.

Thank you to all the wonderful people that helped make special service, fellowship, and learning activities possible throughout the year! Thank you to Vicki Downhour and Jerry Hoover for helping with campus clean-up last fall; all that hosted a trunk at Trunk or Treat; Emily and Lori Walter for making macarons; Sherry Oster for making Pottery; Judy and Bruce McMaster, Dave Mehl, and Wayne Gabbert for helping assemble Kid Packs at Helena Food Share; Eric Spangenberg and Lynnette Avery for helping with Carroll College Concessions; Kait Perrodin for Ice Skating at Memorial Park; Morgan May and family for teaching us how to make tie blankets for the Linus Project; all that donated items for the Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits; and Ron Pecarina, Kathy Olson, and Lori Bigwood-Pecarina for writing Thrivent Action Team Grants to support many of these opportunities!

And, of course, all of the parents who are so supportive of their children's faith formation and the students themselves who come so faithfully, serve and learn!

It truly takes a community to build up and encourage our youth! Thank you all for your prayers, encouragement and support of our youth! This program wouldn't be possible without all of you!

*Jackie Bartz*

Director of Youth and Family Ministries





## HOLY COMMOTION!

Wassup with our youth?



**Summer is just around the corner! Want to know what's the latest happenings with Safehouse?!**

facebook 

Follow ORLC Safehouse on Facebook to be in the know! And if you are in need of quick text reminders about Safehouse events and happenings, you can sign up for quick text updates and reminders by texting **@safehouse2 to 81010**.

 remind



Also, email Jackie at Jackie@ourredeemerlives.org to be added to the monthly Safehouse E-news.



**Not sure what to do on Wednesday nights without Wednesday Worship and activities?**

Come join us for Mix-It-Up May! Each Wednesday in May we will meet for a night of fun and fellowship. Eighth through twelfth grade welcome! Bring a friend!

Questions?! Contact Jackie at 442-7842 or jackie@ourredeemerlives.org

## BLESSING OF GRADUATES

The congregation of Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church would like to recognize, celebrate and bless our graduates, **both high school and college**, as they achieve this exciting milestone in their lives. Graduates are invited to wear their caps and gowns to worship services on **May 14th** as a part of the celebration. Treats will be served following the service in the Great Room.

Please let Jackie know you are coming by May 5th so that we may properly celebrate you and your achievements.

## Calling All High School Under Classmen and their parents!

A special banquet honoring our graduating high school seniors is being planned for Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm in the Great Room and **we need your help!**

We are in need of **4-5** underclassmen and a couple of parents that would be willing to help decorate, serve and clean-up for a couple of hours on this evening. Servers are asked to dress in a white top and black bottoms.

Please let Jackie know if you are willing and/or able to help serve that evening or decorate earlier in the morning. Thanks you for helping us honor our amazing high school seniors!



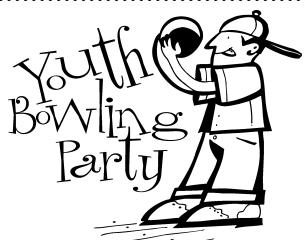
## BARBEQUE & GAMES

**When?** May 10th 6:30 to 9:00pm  
**Where?** We will meet in the Community Room  
**What?** We will cook hot dogs and s'mores on the fire pit outside, and then play crazy games like Giant Twister, Capture the Flag and many others!



## Bowling Night

**When?** May 17th from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
**Where?** Sleeping Giant Lanes, 3355 Tricia St. Helena, MT 59601



**What?** Bring your own socks; game and shoe rental are free!  
Plan on bowling at least 2 games, more if you wish. Bring extra money for snacks bar if you wish.

## Let's Play Shoe!!

**When?** May 24th from 6:30-9:00 pm  
**Where?** Meet in the Community Room at ORLC  
**What is Shoe?**-Shoe is a crazy fun scavenger hunt in which teams hide an item somewhere in town and then write clues as to it's location. The teams exchange clues and then go off in search of the item. The first team to find their item returns to home base and they are the winner of that round. We will play as many rounds as we have time to play and return to the church for root beer floats at 8:30pm.



**NEEDED-Mature, responsible drivers!**



## Vacation Bible School June 12th-16th, 2023 9am-Noon



The theme this year is **STELLAR**! During VBS, kids will learn that with life's ups and downs, Jesus is always there to be a light in the darkness. Join us for a Space themed VBS including; crafts, games, music, puppet shows, Bible storytelling AND more!

**REGISTER NOW!** Please go to the following link to fill out the registration form by May 31st:

<https://forms.gle/R4yogkrVG6CQLSS7>

Please contact Liz at Liz@ourredeemerlives.org for more information.



## VBS Volunteer Opportunities

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 Leader and Assistants
- ♦ Decorations/Stage Building
- ♦ Puppet Show
- ♦ Bible Storyteller
- ♦ Set-up and Clean-up Assistance



Please go to the following link to fill out the volunteer registration form by May 31st:

<https://forms.gle/AfBZbHsqioBtAKik7>

Please contact Liz at Liz@ourredeemerlives.org for more information.



# May 2023

AD = Administrative Wing  
 CR = Classrooms  
 PS = Preschool  
 HS Loft = High School Loft

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief - CR#5-6 11:00am - Knitters for Peace
<b>7</b> Confirmation Sunday  8:30am - Worship with the organ + KidTime 11:00am - Worship with the band + KidTime	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief - CR#5-6 11:00am - Knitters for Peace
<b>14</b> Blessing of the Graduates  8:30am - Worship 11:00am - Worship   Milk campaign begins	<b>15</b> Voice Articles Due 6:00pm - Preschool Board - CR5-6	<b>16</b> 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief - CR#5-6 10:00am - Dorcas Bible Study - Conference Rm. 10:00am - Worship Service at Touchmark 11:00am - Knitters for Peace 6:30pm - Executive Committee meeting - Conference Rm
<b>21</b> Preschool Children Sing  8:30am - Worship with the organ + KidTime 11:00am - Worship with the band + KidTime 12:10pm - Grief Support Group 12:15pm - Servant Team Meeting - Youth Loft	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 11:00am - Knitters for Peace 5:30pm - Council Meeting - Community Room 6:30pm - Family Promise Ice Cream Social
<b>28</b> 9:30am - Worship with the organ + KidTime 10:30am - Caregivers Support Group	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 11:00am - Knitters for Peace 6:30pm - Hunger Team - Conference Room

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3</b> 10:30am - WELCA Board Meeting - AD1	<b>4</b> 9:00am - Sew In Love - CR5-6	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 6:30pm - Confirmation banquet
<b>10</b> 9:00am - Men's Group - Conference Rm. 11:30am - Women's Bible Study - Conf. Rm 6:30pm - Mix it Up May - BBQ & Games	<b>11</b> 9:00am - Sew In Love - CR5-6	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 5:30pm - Graduation banquet
<b>17</b> 9:00am - Men's Group - Conference Rm. 1:00pm - Rebecca Bible Study - Conf. Rm 7:00pm - Mix it Up May - Bowling at Sleeping Giant Lanes	<b>18</b> 9:00am - Sew In Love - CR5-6 10:00am - WELCA Board - AD1	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>24</b> 9:00am - Men's Group - Conference Rm. 11:30am - Women's Bible Study - Conf. Rm 6:30pm - Mix it Up May - Game of Shoe	<b>25</b> 9:00am - Sew In Love - CR5-6	<b>26</b> Deadline for Perpetual Fund Scholarships	<b>27</b>
<b>31</b> 9:00am - Men's Group - Conference Rm. 7:00pm - Confirmation University			