



A Big Band Christmas
November 25 at 7:30pm
Doors open at 7:00pm
In the Great Room

Benefits the Helena Food Share Capital Campaign
Tickets \$25 (\$30 at the door)



On November 25, some of the areas finest musicians will present Duke Ellington's Nutcracker Suite. For 60 years, Duke Ellington and his orchestra were at the center of American music. When he took a look at the music of the Nutcracker, something new and wonderful was in the offing. The dances in The Nutcracker are well-known and beloved. The gift of Jazz is taking well-known tunes and making them something new.

The Nutcracker is part of our offering. Thirty years ago big bands were an integral part of the American music scene. From a White Christmas to A Winter Wonderland the music of the big band created an enchanted time. Every band had their signature arrangements of seasonal standards. We will include contemporary arrangements of well-known tunes. Keep your ears open. And, if you feel so inspired, dance.



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Helena, Montana

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

OUR REDEEMER'S

LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE VOICE

November 2023



In worship last week, I announced that it was the final Sunday of worship for First English Lutheran in Great Falls and that in the afternoon, there was to be a Service of Holy Closure. I left our second service a bit early to drive up there and attend as a show of support for the faithful people of First English.

Twenty-five years ago, they let Dennis and me get married there. I'd grown up in a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregation in town that wouldn't let us have communion as part of our ceremony as we wanted, nor let a friend who was an ordained pastor in another denomination preach and do the vows. But First English welcomed us into the community.

A few years later, my sister and her new husband joined and became active, serving on the council, teaching Sunday School, and helping to manage the endowment. When the nieces came along, they allowed me to do both baptisms, and I even preached at the second one, the only time my dad ever got to hear me in person. Over the years, I was often a supply preacher for this congregation during the Christmas holidays and in the summer when we visited family, giving the called pastors a week off. I've twice been on their prayer list for months, most recently this year. On Sunday afternoon, someone came up to my sister and asked about me. It was fun to turn to her, introduce myself, and thank her for the prayers.

It is a congregation that is near and dear to my heart, although I've never actually been a member there. But they've treated me as one of their own. They always welcomed me, encouraged me, and loved me.

I tell you this because I think this is something you share with the people of First English. We have at least half a dozen first-time visitors every week at Our Redeemer's, and when I chat with them on a return visit, they always mention how friendly and welcoming you are.

There has been a lot of press lately about how lonely Americans are. Recent research from the Graduate School of Education at Harvard University found that 36% of Americans – including 61% of young adults and 51% of mothers with young children – feel "serious loneliness." (Note that young adults and young families are two growth groups for us at Our Redeemer's.)

The need for a community in which to grow and learn and worship, in which to share sorrows and celebrations, is primary to us as humans. The added benefit of coming together knowing that we are beloved of God, gives us the incentive to then turn to that stranger in the row behind us and offer a welcome that is much deeper than the greeters at Walmart or a hotel desk clerk can offer. We have been welcomed, and so we too welcome in the name of the One who saves us.

So on Sunday, if you see someone you can't put a name to, walk up and say:

I don't know if we've met. I'm Susan Smith.
Welcome to Our Redeemer's.
Come have a cup of coffee with me.

The Service of Holy Closure was very nice ... and very sad. It was a three-kleenex service for me. Kleenex one when they "decommissioned" the baptismal font in which I baptized two of the people I love most in this world. Kleenex two when the president of the congregation handed over the big red book of records to the Bishop for safekeeping. Kleenex three when he then handed over the keys of the building to the executive director of Helping Hands Ministry, which will be taking ownership of the property and already assists 1000 people a month with food and clothing from a house next-door to the church.

Kleenex three was happy, hopeful tears, knowing that through Helping Hands the people of First English Lutheran will continue to welcome people well into the future. Thanks be to God for faithful ministry in years past and for that which is yet to come.

Pastor Trina

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



Children's Christmas Event!

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

Where: The Great Room at ORLC

Who: Children & Families Age 3 –12th Grade

What: Christmas Party to celebrate the birth of Jesus!

- * Instant Christmas program
- * Craft Projects
- * Gingerbread House Making



RSVP to Liz at liz@ourredeemerlives.org by December 4!

November Schedule

- 5 Sunday School—Noah
- 12 Sunday School—Noah
- 15 Baking Service Project @6:30pm
- 17 Encanto Movie Night @6pm
- 19 Sunday School—Noah
- 26 No Sunday School!



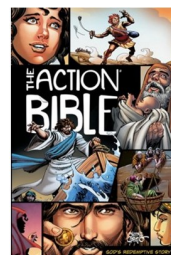
Walk Through the Bible Class



Our annual Walk Through the Bible class for 3rd grade students and their families was a great success! We had 8 children and their families join us in worship to receive Bibles and 7 join us for the class in the afternoon. Thank you to WELCA for providing Good News Bibles to these 3rd graders so that they can continue on their faith journey with Christ!



The 3rd Grade student's received a Graphic Novel style Bible this year in addition to their WELCA Bible. If you are in 3rd grade or older and have not received this Bible but are interested, please contact Liz (liz@ourredeemerlives.org) and we would love to get you one!



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

<https://www.facebook.com/orlcchildrensministries/>



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 Arts

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

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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:

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406-465-1839

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406-460-0133

Voice articles due on the 15th of each month

Wednesday, November 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.

Our Members

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

Our Family and Friends

Ken Acord (Linda Coty)	Jared Larsen (Ruth Reed's grandson)
Zachary Ark	Lindsey Madsen (Julie Penner)
Victor Bachmier	Janessa and Maryssa Martin and Cheyene Bade (Roberta Carey's great nieces)
Julie Bliss (Nadine Sim)	Ricki McDanold (Denise Richards)
Steve Boyter	Sharon McLane Ryan & Abigail McLane)
Diane Brown (Susan Sielbach)	Julie Mehl (daughter of Dave Mehl)
Peggy Campbell	Ruth Naegele
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)	Evelyn Sabo (Janet Erickson's mother)
Karen Elliot (Chas Elliot's mom)	Brandy Spaid (Shannon Bartole)
Brandon Erickson	Dorothy Tangen (Craig Erickson's aunt)
Stormy Flinders	Jory Van Antwerp
Pat Graham	Doug Williams (Leona Williams' son)
Tom Hammond (Sue Hill's dad)	Families of suicide victims
Donna Hurni (Neal Hurni)	Sefra
Larry Kuntz (Dave & Lori Swenson)	Sue
Adeline Lagerquist	

Our Family and Friends Serving in the Military

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

Our Seminarians

Baird Linke
Shawn, Sara, Addie & Kaden Juers

middle school.



Cookie Baking Event

When?	Wednesday, November 15th, 6:30-8pm
Why?	Homemade cookies for the homebound
How?	Youth of the congregation and their families
Needs?	If you wish to donate baking supplies, please talk to Liz or Steph before the event.

high school.



What: High Schoolers get locked into the church for a full night. Dinner and breakfast will be served.



When:	Nov. 3, 6pm— Nov. 4, 10am
Where:	Inside the Church
Who:	High Schoolers, St. John's Lutheran Church High Schoolers and friends.
Host:	FLBC staff will come and lead this event.
To Bring:	Clothes to lounge/sleep in, blankets, pillows, water bottle, and candy for a cornhole tournament.
Needs:	Adult (esp. male) chaperones needed
Register by hovering your camera over the QR code. It will bring you to the online registration page.	



FLATHEAD LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP DATES

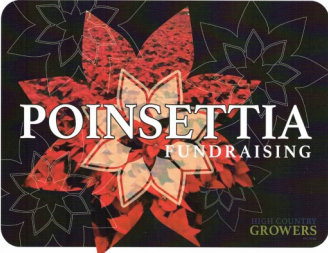
This year we have two different dates that Steph will accompany our kids to FLBC. Sign up for one of those dates to see familiar faces around camp.

June 23 - 28, 2024 & July 28 - Aug 2, 2024

Registration for FLBC opens November 10 at 10am MTN time.

YOUTH POINSETTIA FUNDRAISER

The youth of the congregation are selling local, fresh, professional and high quality Poinsettias this season from High Country Growers.



Why?	The youth fundraiser to help cover the cost of church sponsored events like a week at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, retreats, summer trips and more.
What?	They are selling 6.5" poinsettia plants for the Christmas season. Colors available are red, pink, white, orange, and jingle bells (red/white variegated). The are \$20 each.
When?	Orders must be placed no later than November 12 by ordering online, or ordering from youth on Sundays in the Great Room. Poinsettias will be delivered to the church the weekend after Thanksgiving. Payments can be made online or by check. Check out the online order page.
How?	You can order Poinsettias after Sunday services at the information desk in the Great Room, or by going online through this QR code or link below.

https://forms.gle/ZxXGNn1jbGVefNvM9



From the Stewardship Team

Church attendance and membership in the United States have declined for years, with membership in ELCA congregations declining by 50% since 1988. During Covid this trend became even more exaggerated as public gatherings, including worship services, were suspended.

Post-pandemic, attendance has not returned to pre-Covid levels, and many ELCA congregations in Montana are still more than 25% below pre-Covid levels. Despite the challenging trends for spiritual involvement, Our Redeemer's is growing in attendance, service, and excitement.

What about Our Redeemer's is helping to defy national spiritual involvement trends? The short answer is that people like you create and participate in a community of care, sharing experiences and relationships in a Christian setting. Outreach activities, putting our faith into action, do not go unnoticed by visitors. They notice when we raise enough money to include milk in every Kid Pack for an entire year, nearly doubling the amount raised last year. We reflect God's love when we grow and donate over a ton (2,000 pounds!) of food for Helena Food Share to help feed hungry neighbors. Developing our unused property with nonprofit partners to provide shelter and support services for an underserved population is a unique opportunity to live out our faith through public ministry by extending our mission beyond the walls of our church into the larger community.

As we grow and more people contribute their gifts and presence, the vitality and excitement grow. One area where this is most apparent is in children and youth programs. You have probably noticed the youthful energy in the back of the sanctuary during Sunday services. Or it could be an expanding Sunday School population or the growth of middle and high school youth involvement as youth reach out to have their friends join them. Programs for children and young people bring joyous activity, welcome noise, and future hope to the church as new families and members are attracted and retained.

Our Redeemer's is growing and thriving at a time when other churches and congregations are struggling. There is a need not only to do what we are currently doing but to expand what we do and how we do it to provide a home for those seeking a church and a broader vision for other congregations who wish to grow and thrive in these challenging times.

Your gifts - especially the gift of participation in this community - make all of this, and more, possible. The Stewardship Team is focused on encouraging us all to respond to God's calling through financial support and volunteering time and talent. We ask that you reflect on how this congregation nurtures your faith, brings you closer to God, and how you can support this congregation's ministry work in the future. We are grateful for the unique gifts each of you contribute to the ministries of Our Redeemer's.

New Member Orientation

If you are interested in formalizing your relationship with this congregation, a very general introduction to Our Redeemer's will be offered twice:

Sunday, November 5 at 12:15pm

-OR-

Sunday, November 12 at 12:15pm

Please let our office administrator, Lori Walter, know if you'll be attending either of these so we can be ready to welcome you. She can be reached at LoriW@OurRedeemerLives.Org or 406-442-7842.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Luci Pearson
2 Roberta Carey
Juliah Maharg
Audrey Schubring
Penny Welch
4 Bonner Armstrong
Linda Coty
Scott Walter
5 Frank Grundmeier
6 Riitta Ballantyne
Michael Burke
Troy Byrne
7 Anna Knecht
Bonnie Pennie
9 Evan Colberg
Kellan Elder
Kelsey Robertson
Kayti Sim
Lori Swenson
10 Brianna Denning
Gary Gates

11 Connor Brown
Don Childress
Olivia Liston
Cassie Wetzel
12 Kevin Ark
Samantha Ziegler
13 Evelyn Johnson
Crosby Kennedy
14 Skyler Willard
15 Karter Jurenka
Emily Lynn
16 Emily Lindner
Jacob Spangenberg
17 Ashlee Hanson
Marlene Simms
18 Carol Beley
Melanie Denning
Linda Keim
19 Attila Felnagy
Charlotte Hafer
Kim Mangold
Ginny McLane

Mila Molenda
20 Ty Lamping
David Senn
Louis Ward
21 Jan Martin
22 Denise Brunett
23 Bruce McMaster
Kay Patterson
24 Noreen Johnson
Jodi Robertson
25 Carrie Engle
Deagan Solan
26 Nikki MacMillan
Gary Pearson
27 Eric Spangenberg
28 Lon Bechtel
29 CJ Bomar
30 Mike Connolly
Steph Richardson
Shane Sampson
Kristine Thatcher



Baptisms

10/15/23

Julia Michele Sinel-Barr

10/22/23

Olivia Louise Tackett



Happy Anniversary

Celebrate with those married
40 years or more this month!

Richard & Roberta Carey 11/12/1982 41 years



Deaths

9/26/23

Michael Rand

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.

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.

Musikanten Montana Memorial Concert for All Souls

Musikanten Montana invites all friends of Our Redeemer’s to join them in their annual All Souls candlelight concert. The concert at Our Redeemer’s is Thursday evening, November 2 at 7:30pm.

The singers will open with Herbert Howells’ “Take Him, Earth, for Cherishing” (written “to the honoured memory of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, President of the United States of America”). This November 22 marks the 60th anniversary of President Kennedy’s death. A cantor will then chant the names on the memorial list, followed by the Spanish Renaissance master Tomás Luis de Victoria’s Requiem for 6 voices (*Officium Defunctorum*). The concert is performed without intermission, and the congregation is requested to depart in silence, remembering those who have gone before us.

To have a candle lighted and name of a loved one in the memorial program, please email the name you would like listed to musikantenmt@aol.com by October 27. (Church members who have died in the past year will be included.)

The concert will also be offered the prior evening, at 7:30pm on All Saints Day, Wednesday, November 1, at St. Peter’s Episcopal Cathedral, 511 N. Park. Suggested donation at the door is \$25.



The Choir will present a Thanksgiving Anthem on November 19 at 8:30am. Practices will be at 10:00am on Thursday, November 9 and 16.

No robes, sit with family, sing joyfully.

All singers welcome.

Singles over 40 Fellowship Group

Watch for details regarding a gathering in November. Brenda Olson is the contact person for this group. Please reach out to her if you are interested in meeting. She may be reached at brenda443@hotmail.com or 406-459-9258.

Young Adult Fellowship Group

Watch for details for a meeting in November. Contact Baird Linke for more information. He can be reached at bairdlinke16@gmail.com or 406-465-9532.



It is becoming apparent that our ministry today is looking different than in the past, and every day we witness our leaders discussing innovation that includes blending our inherited, traditional form of church with faith-filled digital formats. Recognizing that our community needs are growing outside our church building, too, it is imperative that Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church leaders solicit guidance from members who possess skills in various forms of technology and media, which enable staff and members to connect as well as to reach out to new people searching for a spiritual relationship.

The Council is creating an advisory Technology and Media Team that can research and recommend policies and products to enhance faith delivery within and outside the congregation. Currently, Abby McLane, Jason Callon, and Dennis Trotter have volunteered to serve on the team. We encourage you to submit your name or nominate someone for appointment to this team to Lynn Voss at lynn.voss@thrivent.com.



Preschool November Fundraiser – Prestige Automotive

Family owned and operated, Prestige Automotive has been providing bumper to bumper automotive services in Helena since 1999.

During November, Prestige Automotive (Tracy and Mark Moseman’s family business) will give 2% of their sales to our preschool! If you have an oil change coming up, need to service your vehicle(s), purchase tires, or need any of the many services they provide, please consider doing this or purchasing a gift certificate for this in November! **Thank you!!**

Join us for some meaningful ways to mark the season of Advent

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

Carroll College Chamber Singers

Our neighbors to the south bring us sacred sounds of the season.

Friday, December 1 at 7:00pm

Prepare for the birth of Christ with Advent Lessons and Hymns

Advent is short this year, with the Fourth Sunday in Advent also being Christmas Eve, which will naturally be the focus of that day. But never fear! We won’t be short-changed on our enjoyment of the beautiful hymnody of this season of preparation.

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

You may have noticed a couple of additions to the property this month. Two scouts, pending Gold Award Girl Scout, Kortni, and pending Eagle Scout, Aiden, are working toward their goals and included us.



Hello, my name is Kortni. I'm with Girl Scout Troop 3846. My troop and I recently did the *Sow What Journey*. The next step is a take action plan and then I will start on my gold award. For my take action plan, I am going to create farm animals out of hay bales with a message that says E-I-E- I know where my food comes from. This ties into my *Sow What Journey* where I learned about the footprint of food. I also made a meal where 95 percent of the ingredients came from a 100 mile radius of Helena.



Standing next to the Little Free Library are Aiden Weber and Pastor Trina. Aiden constructed the newly installed library at the Benton Avenue entrance to the church campus. The library is Aiden's Eagle Scout project, together with two other libraries located at St. Andrew School and Discovery Kidzone. The library is a place for people to exchange books; they can take a book and leave a book. They can bring in books that they want others to read or no longer want.

Aiden is a senior at Capital High School and will pursue an Athletic Training degree after graduation. In addition to scouting with Troop 17, she is an avid hockey fan and enjoys ice skating. She is the daughter of Candace Morse and Joe Weber.



You may have heard or read about the *nones* people who, in surveys, indicate no religious affiliation. According to a reputable 2023 national survey, 30% of respondents did not identify with any religion. That proportion had nearly doubled since 2007 and shows no sign of abating. About half of the *nones* report being “spiritual but not religious.” Many *nones* believe in a higher power - even one resembling the Christian God. They just dislike organized religion, aka, the Church.

One might ask: So what? While people absolutely need God, God doesn't need the Church to connect with people. God did not grant the Church a monopoly on preparing hearts for Spirit transformation. Individual people don't need the Church, but *the world* does. And the Church needs people.

God commissioned the Church to witness to God's pervasive and sustaining presence, life-saving power, and loving grace. God granted the Church the privilege of sharing in the embodiment of God's love here on earth, modeled after Christ's embodiment of God's perfect love. As the hymn says, “Christ has no body here but ours.” The Church's charter is to be a shining city on a hill, drawing all people to God, both by proclamation and by example.

Too often, though, when people look at the Church they don't see a city shining with generosity, joy, welcome, and humble service. Even where those characteristics are present, they are obscured by glaring division, judgment, exclusivity, abuse, greed, and fear. These are characteristics common to all humans: heart diseases that only God can heal. But as these epidemics of human suffering grow and intensify, the Church's own illnesses hamper its ability to guide the sick to the “Healer of every ill.” As more people distance themselves from the Church, there will be fewer guides, and fewer will find the wholeness for which they yearn.

All is not lost, though. Far from it! We know Christ rose victorious over death and will return one day to banish all evil and to rule on Earth in peace and righteousness. In the meantime, we have God's Spirit to guide and comfort us, and we have the assurance of our own resurrections into an eternity where suffering is no more and every tear is wiped away. In the meantime, we members of Our Redeemer's rejoice in the good health God has granted us as part of the Church. We can protect and promote that good health by continuing to exercise and strengthen our ministries of prayer, worship, Gospel proclamation, education, advocacy, sacrificial giving, and service to each other and to our communities. In the meantime, we wait patiently and expectantly upon the Lord to do a new thing!

See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.
Isaiah 43:19

Did You Know?

She is the daughter of a Presbyterian minister, and both of her grandfathers were Presbyterian ministers. But when she made the decision to go to college at St. Olaf College in Minnesota and got recruited to work at a Lutheran camp the following summer, the die was cast for Gretchen Krumm to become a Lutheran. Her marriage to a born and raised Lutheran husband, Blair, further destined it. And when Gretchen, Blair, and Ella became members of Our Redeemer's Lutheran in 2012, even her retired Presbyterian pastor father, Ralph, and mom, Linda Nelson, followed to become members of Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church. God had a plan when he led Gretchen and her family here, and we are so blessed by the many gifts that have come from that plan.



Most are likely aware of some aspect of Gretchen's ministry at Our Redeemer's, but did you know of the breadth of her ministry? Likely not, as Gretchen is one who simply dives in and ministers when and where she sees a need and does it with humility and without fanfare. Among her current endeavors, Gretchen has worked countless hours over several years as the architectural coordinator for the pending transfer of Our Redeemer's land to the affordable housing project in partnership with the city of Helena and several other charitable organizations. It is nearing fruition and will result in Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church being able to eliminate its outstanding mortgage, to make a significant contribution to access affordable housing in Helena, and to provide an opportunity for ministry to our new neighbors.

In addition to this signature achievement, Gretchen's gifts using her skills as an architect are reflected in many of her ministries at Our Redeemer's. Her contributions as an architect and member include:

- Helped lead numerous strategic planning charrettes during the current church campus research, design, and development
- Lead participant in the research and design of a future columbarium at ORLC
- Designer in partnership with Janet Erickson of the paraments for the front of the sanctuary
- In our extended ministry at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, Gretchen, as an architect at Mosaic, led the design of the Lakeside Cabin Complex, the Cockrell Center expansion, the Pavilion, the Shalom Home currently under construction, and the current contract for a new camp Master Development Plan
- Call committee member for the call of Pastor Trina Johnsten
- Initiated a "share a meal" ministry to enhance fellowship in our congregation
- Family Promise Host with husband Blair
- Bell Choir musician
- Member of the newly established Long Range Planning Committee
- Lefse maker at ORLC events

So now you know. God indeed had a plan for Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, and Gretchen responded with grace and dedication. Our congregation's faith journey has been enriched deeply by Gretchen's ministry in our midst.

Thank you, Gretchen!



Our Redeemer's Lutheran WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) **Board would like to express our deepest thanks to Pat Lumma for her endless dedication as our WELCA board of directors president for the past 19 years. Thank you, Pat, for your perseverance, spiritual guidance, and love for the works of the Women of the ELCA.**



WELCA Bible Study - Wednesday, November 15, 1:00pm at Our Redeemer's. Join us as we venture into the Gather Magazine Bible studies together.

Funeral Committee - Sign up today to help us with calling and putting church funeral food together for our members. It is always a joy to help each other during times of need. The funeral committee works on organizing the food for funerals by calling for food donations and lining up people to help in the kitchen. Email Charlene at csmayala66@gmail.com or text/call 406-465-0956.

Kitchen Committee - We are looking for more help in the church kitchen during the year to keep up with cleanliness and organization. If you are interested in helping with cleaning and upkeep, we would love to have you join us quarterly as we update our lovely church kitchen. Please contact Charlene or any member of our current committee.

2023 Kitchen Committee - Char Craigle, Lynda Hanson, Roxanne Hiesterman, Audrey Schubring, Pam Lemieux, Delores Rosin, Judy McMaster, and Charlene Mayala.

WELCA Board of Directors 2023-24

Charlene Mayala, President - Jan Martin Secretary/Treasurer - Kay Patterson and Hildegard Krumm. If you are interested, we are seeking a new member to fill a vacant board position. Please contact any member, and we can give you more information about how you can serve.

The WELCA Holiday Bazaar luncheon and bake sale

Will be held Saturday, December 2 from 9:00am-1:00pm. Volunteers are needed to help on that day and also to help in the kitchen for our luncheon which will return this year. Please stop by the WELCA table in the Great Room during coffee hour after the 8:30am service. You can purchase raffle tickets for the quilts that are located on the walls in the great room and you can also sign up to help us the weekend of our bazaar. We are also asking for volunteers to help bake cookies, and or make all kinds of baked goods for the bake sale that will take place. Our Treasures and Collectibles tables will return this year, so if you have items to donate, please call Linda Coty at 406-443-5857 with your donations. Linda is also happy to pick up any items you wish to donate, if you would like that assistance. Thank you in advance for helping us with this year's fundraiser.

HUNGER TEAM NEWS

GOD'S LOVE

November is National Homeless Youth Awareness Month

Days are shorter; nights are definitely cooler. The shelter can put to good use the following items:

- * Cleaning Products: Pine-Sol, Spic N' Span or any type of floor cleaner; bleach; toilet bowl cleaner
- * Warm socks, warm gloves, hooded sweatshirts and warm coats
- * Hand warmers, foot warmers

The shelter is almost at full capacity, filling 24 men's and four women's beds. There remain two vacant men's beds and three vacant women's beds. Also, nine families are housed upstairs, with 16 kids amongst these families and one more due any day. Yes, when colder nights arrive, they will have people sleeping on the floor. Please remember this if you discard old blankets, sleeping bags, or anything that might provide warmth.

While attending the local Wednesday meetings on Helena's homeless situation, the Helena School District's homeless liaison mentioned that Helena currently has 365 homeless students. Of this number, 132 are considered sheltered, which means they are staying with friends, grandparents, or somewhere with a roof over their head, but they are not at their permanent address. The rest are considered unsheltered, meaning they are living in parks, vehicles, old RVs, or hotels/motels. 210 are elementary kids, 77 are middle schoolers, and 78 are high school students.

Please keep all the homeless men, women, and children in our community and worldwide in your thoughts and prayers, as they are clearly struggling. Thank you.

CALLING FOR GRANOLA BARS

First, thank you for all the microwave popcorn you donated for the Kid Pack program last month. Such a treat! This month, we are collecting low-sugar granola bars. Your favorite flavor is bound to be someone else's favorite, so share the joy. You know the routine by now: Leave the granola bars in the Helena Food Share crates in the hallway. Hungry kids continue to say, "Thank you so very much!"

OUR VERY PRODUCTIVE COMMUNITY GARDEN

Yippeee! The garden produced OVER A TON of produce this summer! Our Redeemer's donated nearly 2100 pounds of fresh, organic vegetables to Helena Food Share! Imagine being hungry and feasting your eyes - and belly - on colorful, crisp beans, carrots, broccoli, and zucchini! What a blessing to the Helena community. It takes a team of volunteers to keep the garden producing. This year, we were grateful to have Carroll College students, a Boy Scout troop, and a group of Master Gardeners join us, but we need more. Please consider joining the 'Garden Team' next spring. In addition, The Hunger Team is searching for an individual or individuals to take on management duties in the Our Redeemer's garden. You do not need to join the Hunger Team to help or manage the garden. Please contact Vicki Downhour at greenxena@msn.com if you want to learn more. It takes a congregation to raise a garden!

Thanks to the leadership of Vicki Downhour, along with the assistance of Karen Nelson (our Master Gardener), Carroll College students, Vacation Bible School kids, and many other volunteers, the garden produced a bountiful harvest this year. We donated over a **TON** of fresh produce to Helena Food Share. Many of you donated your time to plant the garden, pull the weeds, haul away the trash, harvest the produce, and donate your grass and leaves. A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped us provide this gift of fresh produce for our hungry neighbors.

Kendra Wilde Endowment Fund

The Hunger Team will give the dividends from the Kendra Wilde Hunger Endowment Fund to God's Love for this quarter. The amount to be distributed is \$294.85. God's Love is in desperate need of food and winter clothing for the growing homeless population during these winter months. Donations can be made to this ongoing endowment fund at any time.

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
11.5	Lisa	Kristi	Lisa	All Saints White Paraments
11.12	Lori W Communion Kits	Kristi	Shannon	Green Paraments
11.19	Sonja	Charlene	Lori C	Green Paraments
11.26	All of AG	Lisa	Lisa	Christ the King White Paraments

Interested in joining this ministry? Contact Lisa Williams-Mathews,
lewm03@gmail.com or 406-465-5580.

Movie and Pizza

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

November 17 Encanto
December 15 Elf

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

Movies start at 6:00pm.



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 November 10 from 6:30pm until
about 10:00pm. If you have questions, call
Lori at 406-431-5906.



Financial Summary

Because of a small cash balance at the end of September, the Council voted to hold both Dedicated Funds and Benevolence for this month.

Ministry Team and Committee Reports

• Staff reports

All staff reports continue to be quite positive, as we see increased attendance at worship, Sunday School, and all children and youth events this fall. The Director of Worship job description has been disseminated. Congregation members are asked to encourage interested persons with music and worship background to apply for this position. Pastor Trina has met with Carol Will to clarify her job description as Deacon and how to assist with continuing education and other requirements of this rostered position. Carol has been quite diligent in her efforts as an unpaid Deacon in our church, and the Council wishes to support her in her endeavors.

• Property Development

The committee is still working on revisions and more information for the buy/sell agreement on the property. Partners are working together in hopes of having more information soon.

• Personnel Committee

Lynda Hanson reports that they are working diligently to upgrade the Employee Handbook. The group has been meeting twice a month.

Miscellaneous Status Reports

• Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp Annual Report

Linda Nelson reported on the annual meeting at FLBC on Saturday, October 14. Shalom House, which will provide necessary housing for year-round staff, is presently under construction. Dennis Trotter has been working with the Board on a long-term plan to meet both program and financial needs for the future. FLBC has a unique location and mission on Flathead Lake, encouraging outdoor activities and spiritual development in a unique environment. Increased salaries for summer staff in 2023 helped considerably in recruiting and maintaining staff as the numbers of campers increased this past summer. All churches are encouraged to urge young persons in their congregations to consider working in this nurturing environment.

• Audit Committee

Ingrid Childress reported that the audit committee will meet at the end of October. Members include Mike Burke, Herb Kulow, and Steve Keller.

• Committee Reorganization Meeting

The Council will meet for an organizational planning retreat on Sunday, October 29, facilitated by Jeanne McCoskery.

• Church Directory

All church members are encouraged to submit information and photos for the new, online church directory. The Council is in the process of completing the directory. If you have not submitted information and wish to do so, please contact the church office.

New Business

• 2024 Budget and Annual Meeting Dates

- * November 14 - Executive Committee review of proposed budget
- * November 21 - Council review of proposed budget
- * December 3 - Proposed budget available to the Congregation
- * December 10 - Budget Forum between services to answer questions about proposed budget
- * December 17 - Congregational meeting to approve budget between services
- * January 28, 2024 - Annual Congregational Meeting

• Upcoming holiday events scheduled at Our Redeemer's

- * Wednesday, November 2 - All Souls' Concert by Musikanten at 7:30pm
- * Saturday, November 25 - Jazz version of the "Nutcracker Suite" at 7:30pm
- * Friday, December 1 - Carroll College vocal concert, 7:00pm
- * Thursday, November 30, December 7 and December 14 - John Hermanson from Storyhill performing Advent music

Linda Nelson
Secretary

Holiday Food Drive for Helena Food Share

Once again, we shall be collecting holiday food items for needy families for Helena Food Share. Grocery bags with the list of needed items will be distributed after both services on Sunday, November 5. All items must be returned to the church by Sunday, November 26 (the Sunday after Thanksgiving). The requested items are listed below, and thank you once again for your amazing generosity.

1. Canned Pumpkin
2. Boxed Stuffing
3. Canned Fruit
4. Jell-O/Pudding
5. Canned Cranberries

6. Evaporated Milk
7. Canned Green Beans
8. Canned Yams/Sweet Potatoes
9. Canned Broth
10. Olives



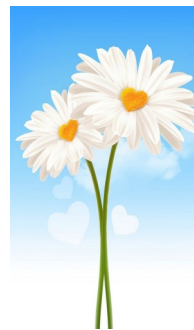
Touchmark Worship Service

Our Redeemer's members provide a worship and communion service monthly at Touchmark Retirement Community. We will meet Tuesday, November 21 at 10:00am 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.



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

The grief group will meet between services in the Conference Room on November 12. All who are grieving a loss are welcome to join us. The holidays can be especially difficult for those who have experienced the death of a loved one. Feel free to invite a friend or loved one who may want some support. For more information you may contact Jane Peachey (234-567-1461) or Lori Bigwood-Pecarina (406-672-2470).



CAREGIVER'S SUPPORT GROUP TIME AND DATE CHANGE

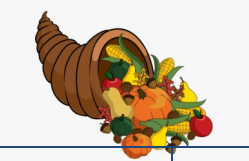
A group of individuals sharing the role of providing support for loved ones meets monthly at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church in the Conference Room. We will meet on December 3 at 12:10pm, after the second worship service. We gather for an hour to share stories and wisdom. As the last Sundays during both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

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)
Jane Peachey (234-567-1461)



November 2023



AD = Administrative Wing
CR = Classrooms
PS = Preschool

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
5 Daylight Savings Time Ends 8:30am - Worship + KidTime 9:45am - Sunday School (ages 3—5th grade) 9:45am - Confirmation Class 11:00am - Worship + KidTime 12:15pm - New Member Orientation - Community Room All Saints Sunday	6 9:00am - Staff Meeting 5:30pm - Stewardship Committee 7:00pm - Bell Choir - Sanctuary ~~~~~ Family Promise Week ~~~~~ November 5 - 12 _~~~~~	7 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 11:00am - Knitters for Peace
12 Last day to order Poinsettia 8:30am - Worship + KidTime 9:45am - Sunday School (ages 3—5th grade) 9:45am - Confirmation Class 9:45am - Grief Support Group - Conference Rm 11:00am - Worship + KidTime 12:15pm - New Member Orientation - Community Room	13 9:00am - Staff Meeting 7:00pm - Bell Choir - Sanctuary	14 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 11:00am - Knitters for Peace 6:30pm - Executive Committee meeting - Conference Rm
19 8:30am - Worship + KidTime 9:45am - Sunday School (ages 3—5th grade) 9:45am - Confirmation Class 11:00am - Worship + KidTime	20 9:00am - Staff Meeting 7:00pm - Bell Choir - Sanctuary	21 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 10:00am - Touchmark Worship and Communion 11:00am - Knitters for Peace 5:30pm - Council Meeting - Community Room
26 8:30am - Worship + KidTime 9:45am - Caregiver's Support Group 11:00am - Worship + KidTime	27 9:00am - Staff Meeting	28 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
1 9:00am - Men's Group - Conference Rm. 6:30pm - Confirmation Class 6:30pm - Youth Group 7:30pm - All Souls Candlelight Concert	2 9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6 7:30pm - All Souls concert	3 High School Lock-in - 6:00pm on Nov. 3 - 10:00am on Nov. 4	4
8 9:00am - Men's Group - Conference Rm. 11:30am - Women's Bible Study-Conf. Rm. 6:30pm - Confirmation Class 6:30pm - Youth Group ~~~~~ Family Promise Week ~~~~~ November 5 - 12 _~~~~~	9 9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6	10 6:30pm - Crafting Night - Community Room	11
15 Voice Articles Due 9:00am - Men's Group - Conference Rm. 1:00pm - WELCA Bible Study - Great Rm 6:30pm - Cookie Baking Event	16 9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6	17 6:00pm - Movie Night - <i>Encanto</i>	18
22 9:00am - Men's Group - Conference Rm. 11:30am - Women's Bible Study - Conf. Rm. 6:30pm - Confirmation Class 6:30pm - Youth Group	23 9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6	24	25 7:30pm - Big Band Concert - Great Room
29	30 9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6 7:00pm - John Hermanson - Isaiah concert	1 7:00pm - Carroll College Chamber Singers	2 WELCA Holiday Bazaar and luncheon

