

OUR REDEEMER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH THE VOICE

November 2021



***"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up,
just as in fact you are doing." -1 Thessalonians 5:11***

Once a month, I gather via Zoom with a group of ten pastors from around the synod. We started as participants in a Lilly Foundation grant focused on learning a variety of spiritual practices (not an easy thing to do via Zoom!). After we'd gone through the twelve lessons together, we decided we'd so enjoyed gathering, particularly as a support system during Covid, that we'd continue meeting and center our time on reading books together. Right now we are making our way through Dietrich Bonhoeffer's classic, *Life Together*.

This month, after doing a quick catch-up on health and kids and parents, one in the group asked if we could all share where our congregation is on dealing with current Covid levels. The responses ranged from not meeting in person, to everything being back to "normal". One has only 20 in worship but 100 online. One has stopped offering online worship because there's no one to help with the technology. Some are masked. Some are fighting about masks. (Thank you, for not being *that* congregation, by the way.) For most, there is still a lot of disruption.

We turned to Bonhoeffer then, and to a person, we'd all marked this passage:

*"It is by God's grace that a congregation is permitted to gather visibly around God's word and sacrament in this world. Not all Christians partake of this grace. The imprisoned, the sick, the lonely who live in the diaspora, the proclaimers of the gospel in [distant] lands stand alone. They know that visible community is grace."
Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together, page 2)*

We do kind of take it for granted, don't we?

The ability to gather for worship, to hear prayers intoned,
to ponder what God's word is saying to us today,
to sing the great hymns of the church
and praise songs from more recent composers.

To see chubby, beautiful babies baptized.
To hear bells rung and drums beat
and keyboards played and strings stummed.

To hear the words
Your sins are forgiven...Peace be with you....Christ's body and blood given for you.

We take that all for granted.

Or we did until March of 2020,
when suddenly we couldn't gather, or sing, or hear those words of comfort.

Like those on the list Bonhoeffer made ...
the imprisoned and sick
and those who live where Christians are few and far between ...
suddenly we became part of that list.
Add to it those living in the midst of pandemic.

We learned the hard way that "visible community is grace," and if nothing else positive comes from months and months of living under the dark cloud that is Covid, I give thanks for the way it has reminded me of what a blessing and privilege it is to be able to gather with God's beloved people.

One of the statements that often gets thrown around during an interim time is that "it's just natural for attendance to drop." You may have noticed by now that I'm a glass *half full* kind of person, so I reject that kind of thinking. In fact, I believe that attendance should at least be the same, but because we're at the beginning of an exciting journey toward a new pastor and a new time in the life of the congregation, I think our energy and enthusiasm should be drawing people to us.

So one of the disciplines I hope you will have during this interim time is regular worship attendance. Frankly, there's too much going on around Our Redeemer's to not be present. You don't want to miss out!

And it's a sign of God's grace to us that we are permitted to gather.

See you on Sunday. Or Wednesday. Pastor Trina

Lessons & Carols for Advent

Join us, as we prepare our hearts
for Advent, through scripture and music



WEDNESDAY, DEC 1ST AT 7:00 PM



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



Holy Communion for Online Worship

If you join us for worship online, please consider receiving Holy Communion at the same time as the in person gathering every week. You may use bread or crackers and wine or grape juice from home. You may also commune with only one element (either the bread or the wine). The presider will address the words of distribution to the online community immediately after the Lord's Prayer and then to those gathered in person. Jesus is present!



Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Worship Service

November 24, 2021
7:00 pm

St. John's Lutheran Church,
1000 Helena Ave

Participating Churches Include:
New Life Lutheran Church

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church
Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church
Saint John's Lutheran Church
Saint Peter's Episcopal Cathedral



TED Talks Discussion Group

What: a small group that views the same TED talk then meets

via Zoom to discuss. For November, please preview "Non-lethal Weapons, a Moral Hazard?" by Stephen Coleman before we meet.

When: November 23 at 7:00pm

Where: via Zoom. RSVP to Pastor Kendra to receive the link

Who: anyone who is interested in vibrant conversation about a pressing issue

Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters!



Come to The Water

Baptism Class at Our Redeemer's

Do you want to get baptized? Please join Pastor Kendra at 9:45 on the third Sunday of the Month for our "Come to the Water" class where we discuss what we believe about baptism, what happens in the baptismal rite, and get you ready for your baptism.

Grief Support Group

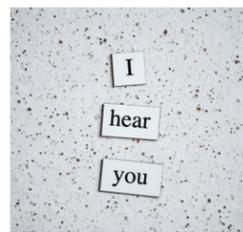
Who: Anyone who is grieving.

We experience many losses in our lives - loved ones, jobs, homes, pets, opportunities. Whatever or whomever you grieve, you are welcome.

What: The group is intended to be a place to share, listen, and support one another.

When: We will meet the second and fourth Sundays at 9:45.

Where: Conference Room



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, Interim Lead Pastor
trina@ourredeemerlives.org

Pastor Kendra Wilde, Associate Pastor
kendraw@ourredeemerlives.org

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

Luanne Tangedal, Lay Pastoral Associate

Jackie Bartz, Director of Youth and Family
jackie@ourredeemerlives.org

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loriw@ourredeemerlives.org

Linda Keim, Organist

Trudy Burke, Preschool Director
trudyb@ourredeemerlives.org

Wendy Vukonich, Preschool Teacher
wendy@ourredeemerlives.org

Joy Novota, Wedding Coordinator

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:

Jan Martin, President
jomvallymt@gmail.com
(406-459-3339)

Ryan Holm, First Vice President
rholm@greatwesteng.com
(406-495-6183)

Lynn Voss, Second Vice President
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(406-570-1094)

Cody Salo, Member at Large
Salo3730@gmail.com
(406-465-4833)

Carolyn Meyer, Member at Large
carolyn.sierra@gmail.com
(303-513-6695)

Voice articles due on the 15th of each month

Monday, November 15 @ 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	Malinda Diamond	Blake McHugh	Verna Strand	Adam Williams
Richard Carey	Christine Hoffman	Dale Mickus	Kim Venetz	
Roberta Carey	Carol Kimble	Jessi Putnam	Lynn Wakefield	

Our Family and Friends

<p>Allie (Luci Pearson) Zachary Ark Brandon Bach Victor Bachmier Lisa Bell (Lynnette Avery's niece) Julie Bliss (Nadine Sim) Steve Boyter Cody Carey (Richard & Roberta's great grandson) Tom Carter Vanessa Chavez (Roberta Carey's granddaughter) JLD (Gary and Joy Novota) Jake Dirks (Lori Chase) Stormy Flinders The Fox Family (Brooke Sampson) Tom Hammond (Sue Hill's dad) Carter Hasselbach (Friend of the Preschool) Shelby Howke (Amber Lamping) Donna Hurni (Neal Hurni) Ed Kinsey (Kim Ewing) Ken Kolar (Carol Kimble's brother)</p>	<p>Shawn Kraft and Family (The Arks) Chelsi Kral (Kim & Carl Anfinson's daughter) Jared Larsen (Ruth Reed's grandson) Janessa and Maryssa Martin and Cheyene Bade (Roberta Carey's great nieces) Ricki McDanold (Denise Richards) Lee Nees (Tami Wadham's mother) Chris O'Connor (Cheri Goosen's cousin) Laura Oleson (Debbie Hurni's sister-in-law) Elsie Phillips (Teresa Schulz's mother) Jacki Riley (Lori Walter's sister) Evelyn Sabo (Janet Erickson's mother) Carmen Sharp Dorothy Tangen (Craig Erickson's aunt) Ray Lynn Van Oort (Carol Kimble) Doug Williams (Leona Williams' son) Yvonne (Luanne Tangedal) Families of suicide victims</p>
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Our Family and Friends Serving in the Military

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

Baird Linke

Caregivers Support Group



What is it? A support group for those who are caregivers for loved ones

When will it meet? Every fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Our Redeemer's.

What will be provided? Caregivers will meet to share experiences and information and pray together.

Please contact Pastor Kendra to indicate interest in the support group.

Contemplative Prayer

Who: All are welcome!

What: Most people, when they hear the word "prayer", think essentially of talking to God, a kind of monologue in which God is listening. Contemplative prayer extends this to speaking and listening, and the simple desire to be with God.

When: Wednesdays at 10:00 am

Where: Youth loft

THE TABLE

CONSPIRE to OVERCOME BIAS
 with Guest Collaborator Brian McLaren

November 1st, 2021
5:30-7:30 pm

Join us around The Table for a dialogue with special guest, Brian McLaren. We will conspire together around Brian's e-book, "Why Don't They Get It? Overcoming Bias in Others & Yourself"

"Brian D. McLaren is an author, speaker, activist, and public theologian. A former college English teacher and pastor, he is a passionate advocate for "a new kind of Christianity" - just, generous, and working with people of all faiths for the common good."

Join us for an unforgettable evening.

The Table is set for all our neighbors.

Gathering in Person & Online:
 Join us at The Lyric for shared food at 5:30 pm [230 W. Yellowstone HWY]
 or Join us via ZOOM at 6:00 pm by scanning the QR:

Worship Assistant Schedule

8:30am

11:00am

Sunday, November 7, 2021		
Captian	Todd & Carol Will	Kevin & Lisa Mathews
Usher	Larry Hanson, Jerry & Judy Hoover, Ron Paulson, Todd & Carol Will	Kevin & Lisa Mathews
Greeter	Lynda Hanson	Team Members
Lector	Kathy Olson	
Altar Guild	Kristi	Lori C

Sunday, November 14, 2021		
Captian	Kristi Antosh	helpers needed
Usher	Kristi Antosh, Roy Hemry, Ken Kolb	Carl Tanberg
Greeter	Helen Bunkowske	Team Members
Lector	Linda Nelson	
Altar Guild	Lisa	Kim

Sunday, November 21, 2021		
Captian		helpers needed
Usher	Dwight Hiesterman, Tom Johnson, Norm Rognlie	Lori Chase
Greeter	Roxanne Hiesterman, Pat Lumma	Team Members
Lector	Dwight Hiesterman	
Altar Guild	Kristi	Kim

Sunday, November 28, 2021		
Captian	Ray Read	helpers needed
Usher	Bonner Armstrong, Norm Midtlyng, Ray Read	helpers needed
Greeter	Gordon Blomquist	
Lector	Joy Novota	
Altar Guild		



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



We are so excited to share that we will once again offer Advent in a Box. These kits are designed for everyone in our church community. Each kit includes scripture readings, discussion questions, prayers and activities for each week of the Advent season. This is a great way to prepare for the birth of Jesus!

If you would like to bring a kit home this Advent season, please reserve yours by emailing Liz (liz@ourredeemerlives.org) or Jackie (jackie@ourredeemerlives.org) or by calling the church office!
⇒ Advent in a Box kits will be available to pick-up the week of Thanksgiving.



KidTime will now take place during both the 8:30 and 11:00 services on Sunday mornings! KidTime is geared toward children who are ages 3-2nd grade.

All are welcome!
Contact Liz with questions
liz@ourredeemerlives.org



Holiday Schedule for Children's Ministries



Sunday School

November 28th - Thanksgiving Break
December 26th - Christmas Break
January 2nd - Christmas Break

KidzEd

November 24th - Thanksgiving Eve @ St. John's Lutheran Church
December 1st - Lessons and Carols (No Class)

December 29th - Christmas Break
January 5th - Christmas Break

KidTime

November 28th - No KidTime
December 26th - No KidTime



**Intergenerational
Christmas Event! (ICE)**

When: Sunday, December 12th from 2:00-4:00

Where: The Great Room @ORLC

Who: Everyone - All Ages 1 - 100!

What: Christmas Party to celebrate the birth of Jesus!

- * Holiday Themed Snacks (To Go)
- * Craft Projects
- * Games
- * Carol Singing
- * Re-telling of the Christmas story
- * Cookie Decorating



RSVP to Liz at liz@ourredeemerlives.org by **December 8th**!

***NEW* Children's Message**

We are excited to share that we will start offering a children's message during the Sunday service to all children! The message will take place after the readings and will be geared toward children ages 3rd grade and up.



**Walk Through
the
Bible Class**



The annual Walk Through the Bible class for all 3rd grade students, their families, and others will be held on Sunday, November 14th from 1:00–2:30pm in the Community Room!

We are grateful to the Our Redeemer's Women of the ELCA (WELCA) who provide each 3rd grade student with a Bible.

Bibles will be presented on **Wednesday, November 10th** at the 6:30 Spark worship service and **Sunday, November 14th** at the 8:30 or 11:00 worship service.

During the class, Pastor Kendra Wilde and Liz Swenson will share ways to become familiar with the Bible through games and activities. As parents and sponsors, the promise was made at each child's baptism to place the Holy Scriptures in their hands and to provide for their instruction in the Christian faith.

Nursery Care will be available during the class!

Please RSVP for your child by emailing Liz Swenson at liz@ourredeemerlives.org or call the church office.

November Bible Study:

This month, we conclude our study of the Holy Spirit with the third session entitled, "Wind of God," where we will talk about how God's Spirit moves us to bear good fruit in the world as well as guides us into transformed lives and renewed communities of faith.

Dorcas Circle: Tuesday, Nov. 16 at 10:00 am

Rebecca Circle: Wednesday, Nov. 17 at 1:00 pm

We welcome new members and visitors to either of our Bible study groups.

The WELCA Board: Tuesday, Nov. 9 at 10:15 am

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

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

Thankoffering Sunday:

The Women of the ELCA will be observing their annual Thankoffering event on Sunday, November 21. Thankofferings are given in gratitude to God for His many blessings and are used to support the national Women of the ELCA in providing resources and programs to local units like the one here. There are special envelopes in the chair backs for your offerings. Checks should be made payable to WELCA and the envelopes placed in the offering plate. Thank you for supporting this ministry.



**Saturday, November 6
9:30am-1pm**

Quilt Show * Quilt Raffle * Handmade Crafts & Booths

Silent Auction * Fresh Baked Goods * Dinners to Go

Raffle Tickets Available after church each Sunday or online at ourredeemerlives.org \$5 or 5 for \$20

Our WELCA Fall Festival benefits our youth through scholarships, camperships to FLBC, 3rd grade bibles, Lutheran World Relief and much more.

Development Planning Update from the design team.

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, along with our partners; The City of Helena, Helena Area Habitat for Humanity, YWCA, Rocky Mountain Development Council, and Trust Montana were granted \$40,000 of planning money through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. This, along with partner matching funds and City funds of \$28,000, are funding a development planning process for our land. This process will help determine partner and congregational goals, community and development goals, and the general feasibility of developing the property around the church. To lead ORLC and our partners through this process, the consultant team of Mosaic Architecture and SMA Architects, along with consultants Stahly Engineering and GL Development have been hired.

During September and October, the congregation has been involved in the first phase of this planning effort – to discuss and assess future church mission goals. The goal of these discussions has been to establish a church campus boundary beyond which the congregation is comfortable allowing our housing partners to begin planning housing.

We kicked off this mission planning effort with a Listening Session with our neighbors. We sought neighborhood feedback on future church missions as well as site amenities the neighborhood would be interested in seeing as a part of the development. Feedback was gathered using an online survey tool. Of the possible future church mission developments presented, the neighbors reacted most positively to Preschool Expansion, Community Multipurpose Building, and Daycare. Site amenities of most interest to the neighborhood were creek access, playground, and trails.

Following the Listening Session, congregational members have engaged in a series of three progressive meetings (each meeting offered at two different times) focused on evaluating future church missions that impact site utilization.

The first of these meetings was focused on assessing and discussing a list of future missions developed by the Property Development Committee. Again, an online survey tool was used to assess priorities of future missions and development principles. We learned that maintaining a land development ethic informed by sustainable principles is a high priority for church members. These principles would include minimizing the impacts of development on existing soils, water sources, vegetation, and animals; optimizing the proportion of open space to built space suitable for the well-being of residents and rainwater runoff management; and promoting energy efficient construction, on-site renewable production, and on-site recycling collection and composting. The other foundational

principle for planning affirmed was the idea of "faith mission" – the understanding that we cannot fully know the future needs of this congregation and thus need to provide opportunity for these unknown future missions. Mission development opportunities that ranked highest were preschool, daycare, columbarium/memorial garden, outdoor worship space and community garden.

The second of these meetings was a site planning exercise at which participants in small groups had the opportunity to look at a site plan with scaled future missions located on the "church campus". Pre-cut scaled development blocks could also be used to test alternative placements and arrangements of these, and small groups were encouraged to generate discussion around these design alternatives and share them with the larger group.

The final meetings of this phase were held on Sunday, October 10th and Wednesday, October 13th. At these meetings the design team presented a site plan for the church campus including high priority future mission development. Additionally, general givens and preliminary road layouts for the remainder of the site were presented for context. **The church campus boundary proposed for planning purposes received full support from meeting participants.**

On **Sunday, November 14th, between services**, the congregation will hold a **congregational meeting** at which the proposed boundary will be presented, and a vote of the congregation will be requested to affirm the boundary for the purposes of allowing our planning partners to begin planning housing for the remainder of the property. Look for future announcements of this important vote.

Please feel free to reach out to a member of the ORLC Development Team or our consultant team with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Development Team

Jerry Hoover: jerry.r.hoover@gmail.com
 Bonner Armstrong: bonnerarmstrong@gmail.com
 Cody Salo: Salo3730@gmail.com
 Craig Erickson: cerickson@greatwesteng.com
 Herb Kulow: herbkulow@gmail.com
 Jan Martin: jomvallymt@gmail.com
 Nelson Bock: nbock6552@gmail.com

Consultant Team

Gretchen Krumm: gretchen@mosaicarch.com
 Jeff Downhour: jeff@mosaicarch.com
 Tim Meldrum: timm@architects-sma.com



HOLY COMMOTION!

Wassup with our youth?



Thank you to all who helped with fall campus clean-up! From picking up a truck load of garbage from Green Meadow to spreading a truck load of woodchips in our flower beds, you're hard work is a blessing!





GAS, GROCERIES, AND SO MUCH MORE!

Shopping with gift cards is an easy way to support our youth ministries every time you shop. Purchase a gift card at face value and a portion of that purchase goes toward mission trips, retreats, and other youth expenses. **No activation fees!**

The possibilities are endless! Dining out, filling up your gas tank, grocery shopping, your favorite latte, vacations, every day expenses, Christmas gifts. We have some cards available for immediate purchase to popular local stores such as Walmart and Target, but we will be taking orders for any of the hundreds of other retailers who have offered this fundraising opportunity to non-profit organizations. To purchase a gift card or to find out more information, please contact Jackie Bartz at 442-7842.



FLBC High School Ski Retreat — January 8-10, 2022

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp is hosting a youth ski retreat January 8-10. This is a great opportunity to join in fellowship with other youth groups from around the state. Youth Groups will stay at camp and each group will decide whether they would like to ski at Big Mountain or Blacktail Ski Resort on Saturday and Sunday. The Camp will provide all meals, including sack lunches. Evening activities include games, snacks, bonfire, worship and more.

- Cost: \$115 per person (includes all meals, snacks and lodging). Registration forms are available in Youth Loft. **Youth are responsible for their own lift tickets and rental costs at the ski resorts.**

If you are interested in participating, please turn in the registration form below and registration fee to Jackie by December 19th. Questions?! Please call Jackie Bartz at 442-7842 or email at jackie@ourredeemerlives.org

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp Retreat Registration Form

RETREAT(S): Senior High Youth Ski Retreat - January 8-10, 2022

Adult Name (s) _____ Home Phone _____

Youth Name (s) and ages _____ Mobile _____

Mailing Address _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please list any dietary restrictions or considerations that you may have:

Registration is due December 19, 2021. Non-refundable deposit of \$50 per person/per retreat due at time of registration.





HOLY COMMOTION!

Wassup with our youth?



Safehouse



High school youth, do you ever wish that there was a place that you could be yourself; a place where you could talk about your fears and your struggles and ask tough questions; a place to form lasting friendships and where you are accepted for who you are? Then Safehouse might be the place for you!

We will meet every Wednesday at 7:15pm (following Spark worship) in the youth loft. Please join us as we seek to grow closer to God and to one another!

Want to know what's the latest happenings with Safehouse?!

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.



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

Pick-Up Your Christmas Wreath!



Your beautiful, fresh wreaths will be at ORLC and ready to be picked up **Sunday, November 21st**, the weekend before Thanksgiving and just in time for your Christmas decorating. **If you forgot to place your order, there will be a limited supply available for purchase.** All proceeds will go toward the youth.

Wreath pick up will be located in the ORLC shed.

ARE YOU COMING

TO THE 2022 ELCA

YOUTH GATHERING?



High school youth, are you interested in going on a fun trip, meeting new people, fellowshiping and worshipping together with high school students from across the U.S., and using your gifts and talents to do God's work? Join us as we plan for the 2022 ELCA National Youth Gathering, travel and safety concerns, fundraisers and more!

Registration Deadline is November 10, 2021.



Youth Fundraising Opportunity with Carroll College!

Great news youth! Carroll College and Sodexo have asked if our youth group would be willing to man the concessions at Carroll football games again this fall. We would work together as a team for about 4 hours each game and raise money for all of the fun things we will do this coming year: indoor rock climbing, and especially next summer's ELCA National Youth Gathering!

But wait! Adults, do you love hanging out with our youth and have a couple of hours to spare? We would love to have some adults hands helping with this endeavor too!

We will need approximately 7 youth and adults to work each game.

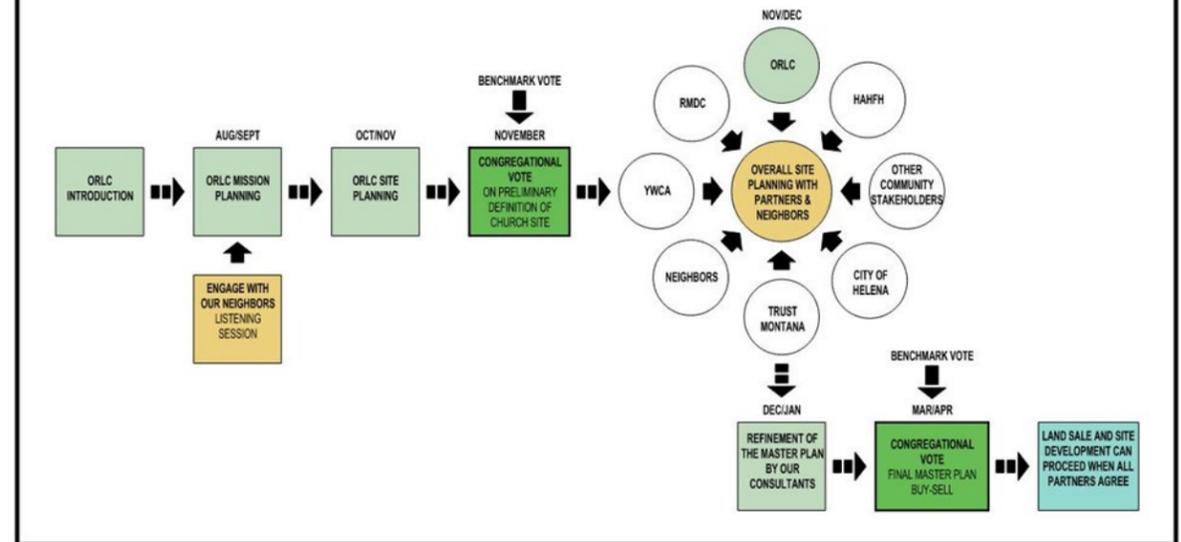
Football Games are: *November 6 *November 13

This will be fun new way to raise money, get to know one another, engage the community, and serve others!

If you are interested and able, please sign up using your phone camera to scan the QR code and clicking on the link or contact Jackie at 442-7842 or jackie@ourredeemerlives.org.



ORLC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROCESS DIAGRAM



ORLC Development Planning

Each month, the ORLC Development Planning Team will be offering an article from one of our development partners. It is our hope, that through this effort, we might come to better understand each of the non-profit partners who have joined us in this development planning process. This month's article is from Rocky Mountain Development Council.

Rocky Mountain Development Council, Inc. strives to improve quality of life and promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

Rocky is a Community Action Agency, formed in 1965 after President Lyndon Johnson declared a "war on poverty" in response to a national poverty rate of 19%. Several pieces of legislation were passed and this law is how Community Action Programs were born. As a community resource for individuals and families, Rocky is committed to improving quality of life, especially for low-income citizens, in Lewis & Clark, Broadwater, and Jefferson Counties. Currently, Rocky encompasses senior services, affordable housing, energy assistance, child care, Head Start and provides senior volunteer opportunities.

Over the past 20 years, Rocky has developed and managed almost 400 affordable apartments for seniors and families. Our vision with the ORLC project is to create affordable homes for low to moderate-income families in the Helena area. Our community is in the midst of a housing crisis and finding a safe home is more difficult than ever. Currently Rocky has 469 families on the waiting list for our newly constructed Red Alder Residences. Generally, we build side-by-side duplex, triplex, or 4-plex buildings with individual entrances and work hard to create a community feel. These projects come with a 46-year commitment to affordability. Rocky's mission is to keep our homes affordable for families perpetually.

- Pastor Trina opened the meeting with a devotion.
- The September Church Council meeting minutes were approved as distributed.
- Jason presented two proposals for additions to the budget: 1) \$1300 for an A/V technical assistant during the live stream service. This will allow those watching the 8:30 service remotely to hear and feel more engaged in the service. 2) \$2475 to pay a pianist to help lead Wednesday Spark services. Feedback from the HolyCow survey and small group discussion show having a high-quality music component to worship is important to the congregation. Discussion among the council showed support for investing in our worship experience.
- Sarah Magee, Financial Director, gave the September financial report. The council moved to create a payable for council funds and building funds and not make the benevolence payments for September.
- Pastor Trina reported we average 37 online views of the 8:30 service, which translates into 55-75 individuals accessing worship this way. Experts say that each view should be considered 1.5 - 2 people viewing.
- The Property Development Team held mission planning sessions with the congregation and has a tentative footprint of about 7.75 acres for church use. There will be a congregational meeting in November concerning the grounds.
- The Generosity Committee is studying a Montana Synodical Stewardship Pilot project called Fed by Ravens, based on I Kings 17. Dennis Trotter is leading the project.
- There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, October 31, to review the findings from the HolyCow congregational survey.
- The Call Committee has been installed and will continue the work begun by the Transition Team. The first meeting of the Call Committee will be with Pastor Jason, Associate to the Bishop. He will provide guidance and direction to the committee and assist with the process once the Ministry Site Profile is complete.
- The budget for 2022 is being built and will be presented to the Council in November. The congregation will vote on it at the December Annual Meeting.

Submitted by Ingrid Childress
 Church Council Secretary

GOD'S LOVE

It was curiosity that made me do a bit of research on the words "gratitude" and "thankful". With this being the Thanksgiving season, and in my search, I found an article that says:

"it is easy to look around our Thanksgiving dinner table and say we are thankful. It is easy to ask each person present to name something they are thankful for. Surrounded by family, friends, and good food, we all have experienced that warm, fuzzy feeling that comes with a gathering and we're thankful. These are great feelings but that's just it; they're just feelings, and feelings fade". Oxford Dictionary defines grateful as "showing an appreciation of kindness." This is where the difference lies; being thankful is a feeling, and being grateful is an action. Gratitude is the manifestation of love, devotion, and commitment towards those who mean the most to you. It encompasses shared experiences, shared love and an understanding that the universe has conspired to keep us happy, and help us understand how connected we are to others. We may feel thankful for their presence in our lives, and happy that everyone is well since the last gathering. However, gratitude goes much deeper than this. It is a state of being, where you feel a sense of appreciation that comes from deep within. You are at peace with the world, and appreciate that state of affairs deep within. The feeling of calm these thoughts and emotions bring to mind, we find fulfilling. The key is keeping gratitude at the forefront of our lives. It's not just thinking about how thankful we are to have all that we have. It's about living out that gratitude through the simple things we do every day."

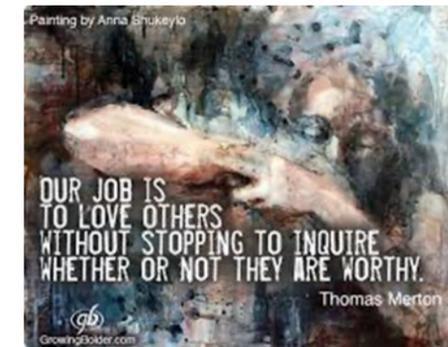
The Hunger Team is thankful and grateful for this congregation. Your continual support is never taken for granted in our church missions that we try our best to fulfill and meet. Your kind, giving hearts in keeping that God's Love box filled is deeply appreciated. Homelessness is not going away; the entire world is struggling with it. "It's a public health problem. Homelessness is an economic problem." The Hunger Team is carrying on with the small but significant ways that help to make a difference.

GOD'S LOVE could use:

- | | |
|--|---|
| * Sugar | * band-aids |
| * ground coffee | * Warm socks |
| * hand soap | * gloves/mittens |
| * shampoo/conditioners [small sizes] | * warm clothing for winter [long underwear, flannel shirts, etc.] |
| * all type hygiene products for men and women [shavers, shaving creams, deodorant, lotion] | * sleeping bags |

Thank you.

The Hunger Team wishes you a blessed, thankful and grateful Thanksgiving.



HUNGER TEAM NEWS

Sharing Our Abundance This Season

Our Redeemer's will once again collect holiday food items to be distributed by Helena Food Share to needy families in our community. Brown grocery bags with this attached list of requested items will be distributed at worship early in November. Bags of holiday food may be returned to the church throughout the month of November, or may be dropped off at the ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service at St. John's Lutheran.

The following is a list of requested items from Helena Food Share.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ⇒ Canned pumpkin | ⇒ Evaporated milk |
| ⇒ Boxed stuffing | ⇒ Canned green beans |
| ⇒ Canned fruit | ⇒ Canned yams or sweet potatoes |
| ⇒ Jello and pudding | ⇒ Canned broth |
| ⇒ Canned cranberry sauce | ⇒ Olives |



Who Doesn't Love Fruit?

We are collecting individual fruit cups for the kid packs program throughout the months of November and December. Choose your favorite and leave a box of cups for hungry kids in our community. And Helena Food Share thanks you for your generosity.

Community Garden Update

Thanks to the help of many volunteers, Our Redeemer's donated more than 1300 pounds of fresh produce to Helena Food Share during this past season. A big shout-out to the VBS kids who helped plant the garden, as well as to several members of the congregation and members of the Hunger Team who donated countless hours to caring for the soil, planting, weeding, and harvesting. Oh, and a big thanks to our chickens, who helped with pest control. Even the grasshoppers stayed outside the perimeter of the garden this year!

Family Promise Update

Family Promise continues to serve homeless families in our community. Throughout the past year and half of the pandemic, they have safely provided families with food and shelter. However, the present housing crisis has made it difficult to find housing for families who graduate from the program. At the moment there are about 9 families on the waiting list, living out of their vehicles.

What can you do to help?

First of all, you may check out the website, <https://www.familypromisehelena.org> for further information and donate online to this worthy organization.

Secondly, you may help Our Redeemer's when we host families the week of November 14-20. All families are still being housed at First Christian Church, where safety protocols have enabled all

families and volunteers to remain healthy. What are our duties for this week? Our congregation provides overnight hosts, as well as meals, for the week.

Two overnight hosts are required for each of the 7 nights. We are **DESPERATELY** in need of hosts to fill these positions. Hosts arrive at 7pm and remain until 7am the next morning. First Christian provides two host rooms with actual beds, as well as a separate bathroom. Please contact Linda Coty, (406-443-5857), cotyak@hotmail.com to learn more about the responsibilities or to volunteer your services.

We also provide meals for our guests. These meals are delivered to the Day Center, 2814 Cooke, early in the afternoon, and they are reheated for dinner. We provide five meals a week for these families. Contact Linda Nelson (406-422-3751), ralinelson@yahoo.com for more information or to provide a meal.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Luci Pearson | Kelsey Robertson | 16 Emily Lindner | Noreen Johnson |
| 2 Roberta Carey | Kayti Sim | Jacob Spangenberg | Jodi Robertson |
| Juliah Maharg | Lori Swenson | 17 Ashlee Hanson | 25 Carrie Engle |
| Audrey Schubring | 10 Brianna Denning | Marlene Simms | Mark Huber |
| 3 Kim Lawton | Gary Gates | 18 Carol Beley | Ellie Michelotti |
| Linoy Yanko | Keeli Mannix | Melanie Denning | Deagan Solan |
| 4 Bonner Armstrong | Jamie Wilson | Linda Keim | 26 Nikki MacMillan |
| Linda Coty | 11 Connor Brown | Virginia McLane | Gary Pearson |
| Scott Walter | Don Childress | Conner McLaury | 27 Pete Mollet |
| 5 Frank Grundmeier | Olivia Liston | 20 Ty Lamping | Eric Spangenberg |
| 6 Riitta Ballantyne | Cassie Wetzel | David Senn | 28 Katie Tintinger |
| Michael Burke | 12 Kevin Ark | Louis Ward | 29 Christian Bomar |
| 7 Anna Knecht | Samantha Ziegler | 21 Jan Martin | 30 Shane Sampson |
| Bonnie Pennie | 13 Evelyn Johnson | Bruce McMaster | Kristine Thatcher |
| 8 Denise Rauch | Crosby Kennedy | Kay Patterson | |
| 9 Evan Colberg | 14 Skyler Willard | 24 Florence Armagost | |
| Kellan Elder | 15 Karter Jurenka | | |



Baptisms

Laura Erin O'Bryant 10/17/2021

PLEASE, PLEASE PLEASE...

We are once again able to visit the hospital. If you or someone you know is hospitalized, please call the church to let us know.

The value of God's Peace

In the Spring of this year, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. The diagnosis shocked me to my core, and I was overwhelmed with fear. I feared both the disease and the treatments. I struggled to cope. Food turned to ash in my mouth, and I lost nearly 20 pounds within a few short weeks. One day, I sat at my desk sobbing while my family was away from the house, and I prayed for God's peace. Later that day, it settled on me, and I felt a great sense of relief. I began to pray for God's peace regularly, and I received it over and over again. Thanks be to God!

As I went through the treatments for what turned out to be non-aggressive cancer, I began to reflect on the nature of God's peace, which was clear to me from the beginning as a lived experience. I realized that I'd never really considered it before. I passed the peace in worship, and I prayed for God's peace for others. It wasn't until this experience that I began to realize that God's peace is more than a nicety. It is a thing of real value.

So what is God's peace? It is a sense of calm when being calm makes little sense. It creates the quiet space needed for rational thinking and hopes to blossom. It allows acceptance to occur, and it builds strength. It pushes aside the chaos of mind and body and allows the soul to take center stage. It is a divine gift, and I recognize it as such. When I pass the peace to you now in worship, gone are the days of feeling like I'm just saying hi. I genuinely wish God's peace upon you and the blessings it brings.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Cook

November 2021

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
	1 6:30pm - Women's Bible Study - Youth Loft 7:00pm - Bell Choir - Sanctuary	2 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief
7 8:30am - Worship + KidTime 9:45am - Sunday School - CR1 9:45am - Getting Down to Basics Class - Community Rm 9:45am - Dear White Peacemakers 11:00am - Rejoice Worship + KidTime	8 6:00pm - Preschool Board - Conference Room 7:00pm - Bell Choir - Sanctuary	9 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief 10:15am - WELCA Board meeting
14 Bibles presented to 3rd Graders	15 Voice Articles Due	16
***** Family Promise at First Christian Church ***** November 14 -20 *****		
8:30am - Worship + KidTime 9:45am - Congregational Meeting - Sanctuary 9:45am - Sunday School - CR1 9:45am - Grief Support Group - Conference Rm 9:45am - Net Youth Leadership - Youth Loft 11:00am - Rejoice Worship + KidTime 1:00pm - Walk Through the Bible - Community Rm 1:00pm - Youth Gathering Mtg - Youth Loft	6:30pm - Women's Bible Study - Youth Loft 7:00pm - Bell Choir - Sanctuary ~~~~~ Operation Christmas Child ~~~~~ Community Room ~~~~~ November 15-22 ~~~~~	9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief 10:00am - Worship Service @ Touchmark 10:00am - Dorcas Circle 6:00pm - Council Meeting - Conference Rm
21 WELCA Thankoffering Sunday 8:30am - Worship + KidTime Christmas Wreath Pick-up 9:45am - Baptism Class - AD-1 9:45am - Sunday School - CR1 9:45am - Budget Forum - Great Rm 9:45am - Getting Down to Basics Class - Community Rm 9:45am - Dear White Peacemakers 11:00am - Rejoice Worship + KidTime 6:00pm - Lessons & Carols Rehearsal	22 7:00pm - Caregivers Support Group 7:00pm - Bell Choir - Sanctuary ~~~ Operation Christmas Child ~~~ Community Room ~~~ November 15-22 ~~~ ~~~~~ Advent in a Box ~~~~~ Available this week ~~~~~	23 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief 6:30pm - Hunger Team - Conference Room 7:00pm - TED Talk Discussion - Zoom
28 8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Dear White Peacemakers 9:45am - Grief Support Group - Conference Rm 11:00am - Rejoice Worship 6:00pm - Lessons & Carols Rehearsal	29 6:30pm - Women's Bible Study - Youth Loft 7:00pm - Bell Choir - Sanctuary	30 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 10:00am - Contemplative Prayer 6:30pm - Spark Worship 7:15pm - Confirmation University-Comm. Rm 7:15pm - KidzEd - Classrooms vary 7:15pm - Safehouse - Youth Loft 7:15pm - Choir Rehearsal	4 9:00am - Sew In Love	5	6  9:30am - 1pm Carroll College Football Concessions - Youth Fundraiser
10 Bibles presented to 3rd Graders 10:00am - Contemplative Prayer 12:00pm - Development Committee Mtg 1:00pm - Rebecca Circle 6:30pm - Spark Worship 7:15pm - Confirmation University-Comm. Rm 7:15pm - KidzEd - Classrooms vary 7:15pm - Safehouse - Youth Loft 7:15pm - Choir Rehearsal ELCA Youth Gathering Registration Deadline	11 9:00am - Sew In Love	12	13 Carroll College Football Concessions - Youth Fundraiser
17	18	19	20
***** Family Promise at First Christian Church ***** November 14 -20 *****			
10:00am - Contemplative Prayer 12:00pm - Development Committee Mtg 1:00pm - Rebecca Circle 6:30pm - Spark Worship 7:15pm - Confirmation University-Comm. Rm 7:15pm - KidzEd - Classrooms vary 7:15pm - Safehouse - Youth Loft 7:15pm - Choir Rehearsal	9:00am - Sew In Love ~~~~~ Operation Christmas Child ~~~~~ Community Room ~~~~~ November 15-22 ~~~~~		
24 10:00am - Contemplative Prayer 7:00pm - Thanksgiving Ecumenical Worship - St. John's Lutheran Church	25 Thanksgiving Day - Office closed	26 Office closed	27

Due to the Covid -19 Pandemic, this calendar may change rapidly, any change in worship will be on the website, emailed and a message will be on the church phone reflecting the changes. If you have questions, please call the church office at 406-442-7842.