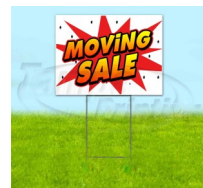




Paulsons are Moving – Oh no!



Ron and Marian Paulson are soon moving to the Twin Cities Area in MN. We are so sad to see them go! As a part of the moving process, they are divesting themselves of some of their belongings by means of a

MOVING SALE!! MOVING SALE!! MOVING SALE!!

THEY ARE GENEROUSLY DONATING THE PROCEEDS OF THE SALE TO OUR REDEEMER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH!

The sale will be held at 8:00am on September 9 at 1352 Beaverhead Road and you are very cordially invited to attend!

(There will be several other sales in the neighborhood as well.)



OUR REDEEMER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH THE VOICE

September 2023



Welcome to Fall 2023! Time for a few updates:

Update on staffing

- I hope you've met **Steph Richardson**, our new Interim Director for Youth Ministry. Steph is off and running as she gets acquainted with our middle and high school youth and their families and plans activities for the fall. Her first event, Slip and Slide Kickball had 20 middle schoolers attend!
- **Jason Callon** continues to help us with weekly worship as we search for a new Director of Worship. A team consisting of Lyanne Den Herder, Autumn Keller, Jim Penner, and Lisa Williams-Mathews has been formed to update the job description and interview potential candidates. Pray that we will find someone with great musical ability and the technical skills that position new requires.
- Seminarian **Baird Linke** will be back in Helena from September through December as he finishes his last semester of classes online and has agreed to help with some preaching, youth events, and getting a new fellowship group focused on young adults up and running (more below on this). We are grateful for his presence among us again, even if it is only for a few months.
- The Call Committee has let us know they have a good candidate to review for the **Associate Pastor** position. Thanks be to God! Please hold the committee and the candidate in prayer as they explore this possibility together, and don't put committee members in a difficult place by asking for any details at this point. When the time is right, all will be revealed.
- **Liz Swenson** (children's ministry), **Lori Walter** (office), **Sarah Magee** (finances), **Kris Thatcher** (preschool), **Linda Keim** (organist), and **David McHaley** (custodian) all continue to be a joy to work with, and I have appreciated their flexibility in this time of staff transitions.

Update on Fall programming

- **Sunday, September 17**, is our big fall kickoff. We're calling it Rally Sunday, an older phrase but one that carries with it the excitement of new beginnings as we rally the congregation and head into a new programming season together. We will return to two services that Sunday, 8:30am and 11:00am, with Sunday School between services for ages 3 to grade 5 (confirmation for grades 6-8 begins the following week). We will celebrate with a potluck at noon, with several leaders hosting tables so you can hear more about ministry opportunities at Our Redeemer's.
- **Confirmation and Youth Group** (Safehouse) will begin on Wednesday, September 20. We are going to structure Wednesday evenings a bit differently this fall, with dinner offered to our middle and high school students at 6:30pm, a short worship in the Youth Loft to follow, and then middle and high school students meeting separately from 7:00 to 8:00pm. As we did last year, confirmation is offered both Wednesday and Sunday, with the same lesson taught both times. Dennis Trotter is taking the lead on teaching, assisted by Liz and Steph. They will be focusing on the life of Jesus and the New Testament this year.
- The **Wednesday night worship service** is on hold for now as we await a new pastor and a new worship director. Those who have regularly attended the last couple of years know that attendance has dwindled to about 20 a week. We will continue to explore the worship needs of Our Redeemer's and hope to offer some new things once we're fully staffed again. We *will* offer Holden Evening Prayer in Lent...no messing with what works well!
- We will be offering **two new fellowship groups**

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OUR REDEEMER'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
3580 North Benton
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406-442-7842

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

this fall. Our Redeemer's has been experiencing growth among young adults (ages 21-35), and so we will be starting a **Young Adults** group with the help of seminarian Baird Linke. Look for more information to come in the e-news and weekly bulletin. We will also be starting a group for **Singles over 40** who might be interested in joining together for fellowship (movies, a meal out, walking/hiking, concerts, crafting). Brenda Olson has agreed to be the contact person for this group and will be gathering interested people after worship on Sunday, September 10, in the Community Room. She may be reached at brenda443@hotmail.com or 406-459-9258.

If these two new groups have you saying, "Hey! What about me? I want to be part of a group too!" reach out to me and let's chat. There is always room for another ministry here at Our Redeemer's.

Update on how you can help (ministry opportunities)

Staff continues to work hard to provide engaging programming for our community, and as we await the filling of two staff positions, we could use some help:

- The **office** needs a friendly person to answer phones and help with projects on Monday mornings from 9:00 to 12:00. This will allow Lori Walter to attend the weekly staff meeting without interruptions and allow for time to focus on some of the financial work she does. Reach out to Lori at LoriW@OurRedeemerLives.org for more information.
- **Children and Family Ministry** is experiencing significant growth and has several needs, including help in the nursery, assistance with Sunday School, staffing for monthly movie nights, and someone with guitar or keyboard skills to help the kids learn songs from 9:45 to 10:00 each Sunday morning. We are also looking for someone interested in upgrading the boxes we give to the newly baptized. For more information, reach out to Liz at Liz@OurRedeemerLives.org.
- **Youth Ministry** is looking for adults to join the youth group on Wednesday night from 6:30 to 8:00pm. Come every week or just occasionally and support a great group of young people. Reach out to Steph at Steph@OurRedeemerLives.org for more information.
- The **Preschool** would love some extra help at

Lunch Bunch when some of the students stay and eat their lunch here at Our Redeemer's. Skills needed are the ability to open milk cartons and juice boxes, an interest in hearing about pets and soccer games, and patience with a busy environment! Lunch Bunch is Monday to Thursday from 11:00am to 12:15pm, and just coming occasionally is welcome. For more information, reach out to Kris at Kris@OurRedeemerLives.org.

- There is always need in our **Worship** life together! As we transition from Jason's great leadership in this area, we could use help with ushers, readers, and communion servers on a weekly basis. We also need a few folks to be trained on managing the slides each week and making sure we get the live stream up and running for those who join us from afar. And if you'd like to offer some special music, that is always welcome. There is a sign-up sheet in the entryway for most of this, or reach out to me for more information at Trina@OurRedeemerLives.org.

Update on Pastor Trina

If you've been in worship this summer, you've noticed that I am able to get around better each week and have even returned to helping serve communion and was able to stand for the recent baptism of sweet Luke Liston. I'm still a little wobbly and can't stand for long periods of time, but I continue with three times a week physical therapy and should be fully back to myself soon. For those new to our fellowship, I caught COVID in late December, which put a rare autoimmune disease I have into overdrive. That, coupled with the high doses of steroids and other medications needed to manage things, caused medically induced myopathy. This resulted in my being unable to walk or stand very well, but reducing the medications and a lot of physical therapy has turned things around. If we have an active flu or covid season this winter, I'll likely mask up for a few weeks. The doctors tell me that any virus can trigger this, so I'll be doing my best to avoid them.

Thank you again, beloved community, for all your care over the past many months. Here's to a full and exciting beginning to the programming year. Blessings as we worship, learn, serve, and play together as Christ's people in this place.

Pastor Trina

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

Kristine Thatcher, Interim Preschool Director
Kris@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Wendy Vukonich, Preschool Teacher
Wendy@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Alenna Maw, Preschool Teacher
Alenna@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Marie Grissom, Preschool Teacher
Marie@OurRedeemerLives.Org

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

Our Redeemer's Church Council

If you have questions or concerns and would like to visit with a council member, please feel free to contact any of us at the following email or phone:

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

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

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

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

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

Lynn Voss, Past President
lynn.voss@thrivent.com
406-459-3939

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

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

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

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

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

Voice articles due on the 15th of each month

Friday, September 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 Richard Carey Roberta Carey Jim Haubein	Linda Huso Pr. Trina Johnsten Carol Kimble Dale Mickus	Nikki MacMillan Lorna Meyer Ron Paulson Jim Poore	Vicki Poore Laurie Simms Ruth Straley Thea Swenson	Tim Williamson
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Our Family and Friends

Zachary Ark
Victor Bachmier
Julie Bliss (Nadine Sim)
Steve Boyter
Cody Carey (Richard & Roberta's great grandson)
Tom Carter
JLD (Gary and Joy Novota)
Karen Elliot (Chas Elliot's mom)
Stormy Flinders
The Fox Family (Brooke Sampson)
Tom Hammond (Sue Hill's dad)
Donna Hurni (Neal Hurni)
Larry Kuntz (Dave & Lori Swenson)
Jared Larsen (Ruth Reed's grandson)
Janessa and Maryssa Martin and Cheyene Bade
(Roberta Carey's great nieces)

Ricki McDanold (Denise Richards)
Sharon McLane Ryan & Abigail McLane)
Julie Mehl (daughter of Dave Mehl)
Chris O'Connor (Cheri Goosen's cousin)
Laura Oleson (Debbie Hurni's sister-in-law)
Evelyn Sabo (Janet Erickson's mother)
Brandy Spaid (Shannon Bartole)
Dorothy Tangen (Craig Erickson's aunt)
Doug Williams (Leona Williams' son)
Families of suicide victims

Our Family and Friends Serving in the Military

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

Baird Linke
Shawn, Sara, Addie & Kaden Juers

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

DATE	CLEAN/PREP Before Sunday	SET UP FOR 9:30 service	CLEAN UP AFTER 9:30 Service	OTHER INFO
9.3	Kathy G.	Charlene M.	Charlene M.	Green Paraments
DATE 2023	CLEAN/PREP Before Sunday	SET UP FOR 8:30 and RESET for 11	CLEAN UP AFTER 11:00	OTHER INFO
9.10		Kristi A.		Green Paraments
9.17	Lisa M.	Kristi A.	Lisa M.	Green Paraments
9.24	Lori W.	Lori W.		Green Paraments

Interested in joining this ministry? Contact Lisa Williams-Mathews,
lew03@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!

September 22 McFarland, USA
October 20 The Addams Family
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 September 22 from 6:30pm until about 10:00pm. If you have questions, call Lori at 406-431-5906.



MINISTRY FAIR

Are you curious about what other people are doing at church outside of the time during worship? Have you ever wondered how you might be more involved in serving others? Do you know how your gifts or skills can be used here at Our Redeemer's?

On September 17, after the second worship service, we are gathering for a potluck meal and Ministry Fair. We will have time to share a meal AND share opportunities for us to learn more about the different types of ministries we have here and how to participate in activities that match our interests.

It will be an informal and pressure-less chance to visit with our servant leaders to see if something speaks to your heart. Join us on Sunday, September 17, with a dish to share and a curious mind to explore the many ways you can become involved in the life of the church.

Feel free to bring any dish you would like. If you need a guideline to follow, if your last name begins with the letters A-G bring a salad or side dish, H-N bring a dessert, O-Z bring a main dish.

Interested in helping with setup and take down? Call Mark Langdorf at 406-431-5671. Thank you.

Children's Ministry Registration Open!

Please follow the link **OR** use the following QR code to register for the 2023-2024 Children's Ministry Christian educational opportunities.

<https://forms.gle/yK1e1bBBCjapQU1TA>



All families of children age 3-5th grade should have received a letter in the mail with more detailed information!

Contact Liz at liz@ourredeemerlives.org with questions.



KidTime and Sunday School Teachers Needed!

⇒ We are in need of Sunday School subs and classroom assistants for the 2023-2024 school year.

⇒ We are in need of KidTime leaders for the 2023-2024 school year. All lessons are prepared for you!

Contact Liz, liz@ourredeemerlives.org!

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

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



Campus Clean-Up Night

Service Project Event

When: October 4 at 6:30pm - Dinner provided!

Who: All ages - bring the whole family!

What: Bring some work gloves, and join us to pull weeds, rake leaves and pick up garbage around the church.



Join Us

October 28th @ 1:00-3:00PM

All Children and Families are welcome!

Contact Liz, liz@ourredeemerlives.org OR Steph steph@ourredeemerlives.org with questions!



- 1 Carol Olmstead
- 2 Bob Den Herder
Ken Kolb
- 4 Trudy Burke
Jerry Hoover
Hunter Perry
Ruth Straley
- 5 Sophie Robertson
- 6 Kelly Elder
Dylan Grimmis
Cheyanne Hafer
Grace McAlpin
Abigail McLane
- 7 Kari DesRosier
Owen Hanson
Graysen Molenda
Sarah Sampson

- 8 Mark Barry
Sawyer Mingay
Jake West
Janet Whitmoyer
- 9 Brien Alberts
Joslyn Buckley
Darby Martin
- 10 Ryan Magee
Brynn Selvig
- 11 Lori Walter
- 12 Betty Brosten
Malinda Diamond
Bodie Taflan
- 13 Mark DeBoer
Mary Williams
- 14 Nathan Spangenberg
- 15 Haley Horn
Liv Perry

- 16 Brian Coble
Nicholas Swenson
Sharlene Wetherell
- 17 Kruz Green
Tami Rasmussen
- 18 Declan Dubois
Kavan Kaufman
Kevin Rauch
- 19 Sandy Bay
Connie Carlson
Sherril Senn
- 20 Claire Lake
Reid Willard
- 22 Anna Connerton
Lupine Meyer
Kim Randall
- 23 Cindy Rand
- 24 Lori Chase

- Erik Helfert
Sarah Liston
- 25 Jackie Bartz
Katherine Guariglia
- 26 Chad Beley
Annie Chase
- 27 Ellie Harris
Sharon Haugen
Tanner Reddig
- 28 Del Carroll
Sara Juers
Laurie Simms
- 30 Neil Brunett
Karen Darlow
Mike Magee
Ron Pecarina

September Birthdays!

Remember our friends in Christ with a Birthday prayer!

Sharing a Prayer on your Anniversary

Happy Anniversary

Celebrate with those married 40 years

Kevin & Lisa Mathews	9/9/1983	40 Years
Dan & Mary Adams	9/15/1979	44 years
Mike & Cindy Rand	9/18/1976	47 years
Ray & Linda Read	9/10/1966	57 years
Jim & Janice Anderson	9/5/1965	58 years
Bill & Ruth Straley	9/3/1961	62 years

Baptisms

8/20/2023 - Luke Steven Liston

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.

FLBC'S FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL & AUCTION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH, 2023

@ Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

550 Lutheran Camp Rd., Lakeside MT 59922

An event to help make camp financially accessible to all!

Following the FLBC Annual Meeting at 2:30, join us for the Fall Harvest Festival & Auction events!

4 PM - 5:30 PM Silent Auction, Happy Hour, & Appetizers

5:30 PM Dinner served

6:15 PM Live Auction & Program

Silent Auction closes after program

--

Individual Tickets: \$50 each

Table Package (8 tickets): \$350

(Kids 16 & Under are free; activities & dinner for youth from 4-7 PM)

Contact FLBC at 406-752-6802 to purchase tickets, or visit one.bidpal.net/flbcauction/ to buy tickets online and browse our online auction items (online bidding opens 10/1/23 and ends 10/15/23).

Visit flbc.net to view the full schedule for October 14th, which includes the FLBC annual meeting.



middle school.

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church



Thank you all who came out to the Middle School Kickoff Slip and Slide Kickball event! What a blast!!



Who: Middle School students and friends

When: Wed. Oct 18 - Thurs. Oct 19

Where: Cascade, MT.

More details to come next month. Mark your calendars and save the date.



confirmation.

Registration is open for all Middle School events, including Confirmation! Use the QR code to pull up the registration form.



Sept. 13: Confirmation Orientation, 7-8pm

Sept. 20/24: Confirmation Classes begin.

Wed. 6:30-8pm & Sun. 9:45-10:45am

Sept. 27/Oct 1: Confirmation Class

Wed. 6:30-8pm & Sun. 9:45-10:45am

Oct. 4/8: Family Campus Clean-Up, 6:30pm dinner provided

high school.

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church

Registration is open for all High School events. Use the QR code to pull up the registration form.



-High School Kickoff-

Who: High School students and friends

When: Wed. Sept. 20, 6:30-8pm in the Loft

What: Nerf Wars around the entire church with pizza to start. Come hungry and ready to play!!



Who: High School students and friends

When: Wed. Sept. 27, 6:30-8pm, in the Loft

What: Dinner together and after... see if the group can escape the loft!



Who: All are welcome!

When: Wed. Oct. 4, 7pm

What: Help clean up the church campus with people of all ages. 7-8pm

Dear Parents/Guardians,
High School students and
Middle School Students,

A letter recently went out with a questionnaire included. This questionnaire is for both the parents/guardians and their Middle School and/or High School students. With this time of transition, this questionnaire is a good place to start figuring out where this ministry is sitting with the youth and their families. It is the goal to hear from as many of you as possible. Your thoughts are valued, and I want to hear all of them... your dreams, your suggestions, your questions, your complaints, your hopes, your hurts... whatever you'd like to share with me. I'd like to get these questionnaires back by Sunday, September 10th to help guide the ministry for the year. Understanding what the congregation wants will help me gauge how to steer this ministry. Honesty is kindness because that is how we grow.

If you have any questions, did not see an email from me with the questionnaire link, or did not get one/many in the mail, please reach out to me at steph@ourredeemerlives.org.

Praying for a fun end to summer and beginning of a new school year!

Steph Richardson
Interim Director of Youth Ministry



What is a Youth Ministry Steering Team? A Youth Ministry Steering Team is a group of volunteers who help to plan and execute the ministry's activities. The team will be made up of a variety of people, including youth, parents, and church leaders.

Why create a steering team? A steering team can provide much needed support. They help plan and execute activities, and they can also provide feedback and ideas. This team brings greater diversity of perspectives to youth ministry. This can help create a more inclusive and welcoming environment for all youth. Both parent's voices and youth voices will be actively engaged in the planning and structure of this ministry.

Who should be on the team? Equal representation of Middle School students, High School students, Parents/Guardians and church leaders is desired. Please talk to Steph if you are interested, steph@ourredeemerlives.org.

Rob and Carolee Stuberg: From the Montana Synod to Tanzania

Six months out of each year, Rob and Carolee Stuberg attend Immanuel Lutheran Church in Missoula, MT. The other six months, they live in Tanzania where Rob, a Deacon with the ELCA, teaches at the Mwika Lutheran Bible and Theological College.



Rob was the Director of Worship and Arts at Our Redeemer's in Helena for 18 years. Now he and Carolee are retired when they are in Montana, and working full-time when they are in Tanzania.

Their first trip was with a group organized by their pastor, who had connections in Tanzania. That was the beginning. They traveled to Tanzania four times, for two to three weeks each time, including one longer stay during a sabbatical. Then the Stubergs committed to serving in an official capacity. This coming September, the Stubergs will begin their sixth year living, serving, and teaching side-by-side with Lutheran Tanzanians.

Initially, Carolee worked in a program for women and orphans. Now she runs their household – which requires a lot of work as there are no modern conveniences. "I would not be able to teach if it weren't for Carolee running the house, being travel agent and making sure we are where we are supposed to be. In fact, our first trip to Tanzania was her idea," Rob said.

Rob is a teacher at Mwika Lutheran Bible and Theological College, a seminary owned and operated by the Northern dioceses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

"We train future pastors, evangelists, parish workers, and church musicians," Rob said. "I teach in the areas of Liturgy and Music. The seminary has about 350 students, and over half are female. It takes four years of study to become a pastor, three years to become an evangelist or parish worker, and we offer both two and four-year programs for church musicians." Rob is currently the only faculty member that is not Tanzanian.



The Stubergs live and teach in Tanzania because of the warm, welcoming nature of the Tanzanian people and their way of life. Rob explained that it's been said, "Tanzanians have an experience of God we should not live without." That experience of God is evident in many ways, but most obvious is their hospitality. Tanzanians say "visitors are a blessing from God," and they treat guests in their homes, churches, towns, and country with a welcome and hospitality that Rob and Carolee have never experienced elsewhere. This welcome is part of Tanzanian culture, but one could argue that it is also a Biblical mandate throughout Hebrew Scripture and the New Testament, Rob said.

The students Rob teaches are financially very poor by western standards, but they value education and feel it is a privilege to be educated and to find vocation in the church. "Teachers here are highly respected, and the students usually carry my backpack and guitar around campus for me, and greet me with "Shikamoo Mwalimu", meaning 'I respect you teacher'." The students also understand that the teachers genuinely care and deeply want the best for their students.

The Stubergs have learned many things over their years in Tanzania and one of the most interesting cultural differences has to do with living in the present.

"While people in the US and Europe tend to lean more toward thinking about the future, i.e. our next meeting or our next 'whatever', that isn't the case in Tanzania," Rob said. "In Tanzania, the most important thing is relationship and what is happening now, in the present. Just saying "hi" to a stranger you meet walking on the path can take several minutes. So, if a current conversation keeps someone from being on time for a future appointment, it is accepted as normal." The Stubergs said that Westerners who visit Tanzania can easily get frustrated about things like appointments, schedules, and starting time of events that Tanzanians just don't think is a big deal.

There is a saying, "Americans have the watches, but Tanzanians have the time," Rob said. "We are getting more and more used to this way of thinking. Just accepting and learning from it as a cultural difference is very helpful to leading a less frustrated life."

As the Stubergs continue both learning and teaching, they feel thankful for the experience. "It is a great privilege knowing that we are directly helping to shape the future leaders of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania,

even know with any accuracy how others perceive us. More importantly, living to please others distorts and diminishes the person God made us to be. A bass can try to sing a soprano part, but neither he nor the listener will enjoy it, and the world will be deprived of a bass voice.

As Christians, we start with the foundational understanding that God is absolutely—not relatively—good, God created us in God's image, and in God's perception we are more than worthy—we are loved. That doesn't mean we're perfect; we are not what God

created us to be. So, we rely on the power of the Spirit to move us toward perfection. We trust in the trustworthy people God places in our lives, including those in the church, to affirm our worth and help direct us from an outside perspective. We build on the structure of laws and precepts for healthy living that God has given us. And we create space in our lives for the Spirit to amplify our gifts, creating rich and vibrant life.

Kevin Mathews



You may just know him as the guy who keeps out of the limelight while he plays mandolin or backup guitar in the worship band. But Mark Ellzey has been a member of Our Redeemer's since 2011.

Mark grew up near Portland, Oregon and worked in IT in California and New York before moving to Helena in 2009 at the invitation of his sister, who has lived here since the 1980's. Mark had visited Helena a number of times, liked it, and decided it might be a good place to retire.



Mark had played guitar in his youth, but not much since then. Yet, when Jason Callon was putting together the worship band, Mark asked if they could use another guitar, and fit right in. He also picked up the mandolin since moving to Helena.

In 2019, Mark learned about a group of musicians who get together and jam at the Western Bar every Tuesday night, and you can find him there playing both guitar and mandolin most Tuesdays, beginning at 6 PM. It's not a performance *per se*, but it is a lot of fun watching a group of folks who love making music having fun making it together.

Mark also enjoys riding his motorcycle on long trips, and no, he has never been to the big rally in Sturgis.

We are blessed to have Mark sharing his musical gifts as part of our fellowship.



Psalm 37:7-9 reminds us to "Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him." We, as a congregation and as your Call Committee, have been waiting patiently, but the Call Committee is excited to share that our wait is over! The committee now has a candidate to review. As we begin the discovery work with a candidate, we enter a very confidential portion of our work to respect the privacy and confidentiality of both ourselves but also the candidate. As we are able, the Call Committee will continue to share updates. However, they may be even more generic than before. Be confident that we are working hard to listen to the Holy Spirit as we seek the person that is right for our congregation. Please continue to pray for your Call Committee as we work through this next step in our calling.

Abby McLane (chair), Kristi Antosh, Lori Chase, Dee Dee Fischer, Shauna Helfert, Dwight Hiesterman, & Craig Linke

2023 MONTANA PROPERTY TAX REBATE

The Montana Property Tax Rebate is a rebate to eligible Montana taxpayers who were billed and paid property taxes on their principal residence for tax year 2022. The rebate is up to \$675 or an amount not to exceed 2022 property taxes on a principal Montana residence. If you qualify, you **must file a claim by October 1, 2023**. To file a claim go to "getmyrebate.mt.gov" and follow the website instructions. To complete the form you will use your social security number, your Department of Revenue letter with letter id, the amount of 2022 property tax you paid, and your Geocode (found on website "cadastral.mt.gov").

Please consider investing a portion of your rebate into the work we do as a church family. Thank you from the Stewardship Committee.

Preschool Update



And We're Back!

I hope you had an enjoyable summer; it seemed to just fly by once again! We are blessed to have our awesome preschool teachers all returning. Ms. Maw, has the three-year-olds, Mrs. Grissom the four-year-olds and Mrs. Vukonich the pre-kindergarten. They've been busy organizing, planning and putting the finishing touches on their classrooms. They are refreshed and excited for the upcoming school year!

Classes begin Tuesday, September 5. We are nearly at capacity! We have one opening in our three-year-old class and two openings in our afternoon four-year-old class. If you know anyone in these age groups that is looking for a quality program, please send them our way. Thank you! Kristine Thatcher and the Preschool Staff; 406-442-7842, ext. 20 or preschool@ourredeemerlives.org

HUNGER TEAM NEWS

GOD'S LOVE

“People who are homeless are not social inadequates. They are people without homes.”] ANONYMOUS]

Hard to believe we are falling back into fall. Yes, social injustices still exist so we continue our battle forward to try and help in whatever small ways we possibly can to make a difference.

For September, God's Love asked if we could please help them out with ½ gallons of milk and any size of juice, and razors. They provide breakfast/lunch/dinner to all who are in need of meals. Dinner is always a hot meal. If you're willing to donate milk please mark it for God's Love and place in the church refrigerator. Same if you donate cold juice. We will make sure it is delivered to God's Love.

*“Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.”
Thank you.*

FAMILY PROMISE

Comfort Food Challenge – Sunday, September 10 from 4:00 – 6:30pm at Lewis and Clark Fairgrounds Exhibition Hall. Please join us to enjoy a wide variety of food samples prepared by congregations, restaurants, and food trucks. Tickets are \$20.00 per person or \$40.00 per family and are available in the church office or at Myrna Loy, Birds & Beasley's, and online at 406tix.com.

We are also raffling a beautiful diamond pendant donated by Diamond Dream. Tickets are \$25, with only 100 tickets being sold. Purchase in the church office or at the Comfort Food Challenge.

To donate auction items, cook, or help serve at this event, please contact Kathy Olson (406)431-8686. Thank you for keeping the families, staff, volunteers, and board members in your prayers!!

THANK YOU!! - It truly takes a village (or a congregation) to host our Family Promise guests. Once again, you came through for them the week of August 20-27. Thank you to everyone who set up or tore down the guest rooms, those who served as overnight hosts, and those of you who prepared a meal. You gave your time and energy and remained flexible in the process. You are greatly appreciated.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU - After a late frost, the garden has made a stunning recovery, and has provided the community with rhubarb, raspberries, onions, shallots, garlic, beets, carrots, broccoli, cabbage, kale, chard, tomatoes, peppers, snap peas, beans, and squash. This space is such a blessing, and allows the opportunity for Our Redeemer's members to be blessings to others. Special thanks to Boy Scout Troop #4207 for their work in the garden, and to Jackie Bartz for arranging the partnership. Additionally, thanks to Carroll College students, and Master Gardener students, and thanks to Karen Nelson for tapping these two great resources. Thank you to everyone from Our Redeemer's who helped in the garden: Hunger Team members and friends, those renting garden plots, the 'old guys group', VBS students and teachers, and anyone else who snuck in when we weren't looking, or who have been forgotten from this list! Thank you also for donations of goods, money, and grass clippings! Please check the e-news on Thursdays and announcements on Sundays for more timely information and requests.

YOU ARE 'UDDERLY' AMAZING!!!

Yes, once again you have met the challenge and raised the money for all the milk needed for the kid packs program at Helena Food Share for the upcoming school year.

When the Hunger Team presented this challenge to you in May, most of us probably thought, “How in the world can Our Redeemer's raise \$21,000 by the end of the summer?” But your faith, combined with the efforts of the Hunger Team in securing matching grants for this goal, has made this possible.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO ASSISTED, no matter the size of your donation!
Stay tuned for the date and time for the annual presentation of THE BIG CHECK to Helena Food Share.

KENDRA WILDE HUNGER ENDOWMENT FUND

At their August meeting the Hunger Team voted to assist the victims of the recent fire in the Iron Front Hotel, donating dividends of \$589.60 from the Kendra Wilde Hunger Endowment Fund. Funds for victims are being handled by the Helena Area Community Foundation.

Ongoing donations to the Kendra Wilde Endowment Fund are accepted at the church at any time.

What I'm Learning In Voice (and Life) Lessons

I recently began voice lessons with Chas Elliott, who was a member of Our Redeemers for many years and has accompanied and performed here several times over the last few years. Though I took lessons throughout high school and college, that was a *long* time ago. And, while I have sung and performed a lot throughout the intervening years, I was interested to see what I could learn from someone who really knows what they're doing. Here are some of the things I've been learning and relearning, along with broader applications to a life of faith.

- Singing properly requires three basic components: breath, structure, and space. Breath provides power to vibrate the vocal cords. The solid structure and hollow space of our bodies work in tandem to amplify and develop sound waves produced by vibrating vocal cords. When those three elements are aligned and unrestricted, the result is a powerful, multidimensional, unique sound that can elicit both joy and tears.

Christians live by faith powered by God's Spirit. That Spirit moves through us and resonates with the structures of our relationships, our work, and our daily interactions. The space we provide in our lives (through prayer, study, worship, attentive silence) amplifies and shapes that resonance. The power of the Spirit acting on the healthy structures of our lives with spacious freedom produces nothing less than abundant life.

- Singing correctly (i.e., healthily) requires a lot of effort, effort that must be carefully focused and channeled to be effective. We generally picture lungs when we think of the respiratory system. But the lungs cannot fill or empty themselves. The diaphragm and the abdominal muscles combine to produce the primary motive force for breathing. The diaphragm forms the floor of the chest cavity and contracts downward to create space that vacuums air into the lungs. The abdominal muscles contract upward against the diaphragm to squeeze air out of the lungs. Creating and coordinating tension between these two sets of muscles moves a sustained, controlled column of air through the vocal cords and recharges the lungs. That requires energy. It can seem removed from singing, though, which we often visualize as happening in our throats and chests. That perception unintentionally attracts tension to our upper bodies, tension that is not very effective; it's inefficient and restricts and deforms the space needed to create a full, resonant sound. Much of singing is trusting in and relying on a designed-in source of effective power and getting out of its way.

Living is tension. We can't move without friction. (Well, we can, but that kind of movement is known as falling.) The source of the tension that produces movement in our lives hugely affects the quality of our lives. God would have us rely on the power of the Spirit to energize our lives. As that power acts on us and through us, it removes obstacles that prevent our connection to the ultimate Source of life. But we often fail to trust in that infinite power. Instead, we try to produce it on our own. The result is inefficient, restrictive, and distorting tension that tends to do more harm than good.

- We can't know what we sound like to others. The sound in our heads is not the sound others perceive. I've always known that but never appreciated its profound implications. I've tended to listen for and analyze the sound I'm making and try adjusting it to satisfy my concept of good sound. There are at least three big problems with that approach. First, because I don't hear what others hear, it may not sound good to them. Second, my inward focus detracts from the primary reason for performing, which is to create an enjoyable experience for a listener. It also leads to over-controlling, which leads to restriction, which diminishes the power and freedom of the sound. Overcoming this tendency toward singing-by-listening requires a knowledgeable and skilled guide and a tremendous amount of trust. The trust part has been very difficult for me. I'm having to learn how it feels in my body to make a sound that Chas tells me is good—or less good—outside my head, trust in that assessment, and try to recreate the conditions that generated the good sound while avoiding the conditions that did not. I need to work on being attuned to, and controlling, my body as I'm singing and trusting that good sound will result, regardless of how I perceive it.

Finally, what makes a sound “good” is largely a matter of personal taste and depends on the style of music being sung. High-quality vocal production should be healthy and sustainable, but every voice is different. No one voice is suited for all kinds of music. A singer needs to know his/her limits, but within those limits, he/she must focus on producing his/her own unique sound using techniques that maximize purity and flexibility. Attempting to change one's voice to suit specific tastes or to produce music for which it is not suited will satisfy neither the singer nor the listener.

The ways we experience the world are highly individualized, subject to myriad factors beyond our control. Trying to live so that others perceive us a “good” and worthy is destined for failure. We can't

Continued on page 14



Financial Review

Receipts for July were considerably better than the previous month. The Council voted to pay the Building Fund amount of \$24,918.75 for June and July and to hold benevolence and dedicated funds for this month, in anticipation of property taxes due in November.

Ministry Team and Committee Reports

- Sunday morning worship will return to two services, 8:30 and 11:00 on September 17. Wednesday evening services are on hold at this time due to low attendance; however, middle school and high school youth will continue to have a time of worship as a part of their confirmation and youth group activities on Wednesday evenings.
- Cody Salo reported that the property development committee is waiting for Lewis and Clark County to pass their budget within the next month or two. In the meantime, the committee continues to work out financial and legal issues regarding the potential sale of the property segment for the affordable housing project.
- The Worship Director committee is working up a job description for this position.
- Kevin Mathews, Lori Chase and Linda Nelson conducted an exit interview with Jackie Bartz.
- The Fall Ministry Fair and Potluck will be held on Rally Day, Sunday, September 17 at noon. See further details in this issue of The Voice.
- The Council agreed to use the Instant Church Directory to update information on membership. Members will be able to download a free mobile app to access information. Printed copies will also be available. The process for obtaining photos and updated information will also be launched on Rally Day, September 17.
- The Council received a report on upgrading technology for the building. This upgrade could potentially include improvements for both internet and phone coverage.
- Lynn Voss reported on a keypad proposal from Burdick's Locksmith. The Council is examining this possibility in order to upgrade the church's security system. The Council requested more information, such as costs for security cameras and emergency access for firefighters.

Unfinished Business

- The Council is waiting for responses from nominees for the Long-Range Planning Committee and will hold a special meeting on Sunday, August 27, to vote on committee members.

New Business

- The Council approved the appointment of Gary Fischer to the Stewardship Committee.

Linda Nelson
Secretary

September Bible Study

We will begin a new three-session study this month entitled, "Holy Places." The first session, "Home," will have us consider the complexity of home and the promise of home through the stories of Israel's exile, the ministry of Jesus, and the promises of Revelation.

We will again meet as a combined group on **Wednesday, September 20 at 1:00pm at the church.**

We welcome new members and visitors to join us.

The WELCA Board: Tuesday, September 12 at 10:30am

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

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

School Kits for Lutheran World Relief: Thank you to all who contributed items for the School Kits for Lutheran World Relief. We appreciate all the help and will let you know how many kits we were able to assemble when we ship them next spring.

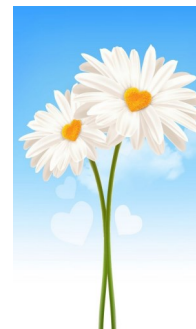
Touchmark Worship Service

Our Redeemer's members provide a monthly worship and communion service at Touchmark on the third Tuesday of each month. On September 19, LPAs Jeff and Jan Martin will lead the gathering in word and sacrament. If you want to worship with some of our member residents, please join us in the second-floor forum at 10:00am on September 19.



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Grief can be a lonely walk and sometimes those around us get impatient with our healing process. The grief group seeks to support and provide a safe place to share our walk as we find our own path. September's meeting will take place between services on September 17. All who grieve are welcome. For information or with questions you can call Jane Peachey 234-567-1461 or Lori Bigwood-Pecarina 406-672-2470.



CAREGIVER'S SUPPORT GROUP

"I am not a caregiver. My husband can dress and feed himself and even cooks an occasional meal," she said.

But that may not be true. Perhaps your loved one needs assistance with mobility, memory, medical appointments, or running errands. When health changes, one can unexpectedly become a caregiver. Join us to share the joys, tears, laughter, and challenges this role brings.

We will meet following the Sunday worship service on September 24. We begin around 12:10pm in the Conference Room. If you wish to speak to one of the leaders during the week, please contact us at the following numbers.

Lori Bigwood-Pecarina 406-672-2470
Jane Peachey 234-567-1461




September 2023



AD = Administrative Wing
CR = Classrooms
PS = Preschool

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
3 9:30am - Summer Worship	4 LABOR DAY Church office closed	5 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 10:30pm - WELCA Board - AD1 11:00am - Knitters for Peace
10 9:30am - Summer Worship + KidTime 10:45am - Singles over 40 - Community Room	11 9:00am - Staff Meeting	12 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 10:30am - WELCA Board 11:00am - Knitters for Peace 6:30pm - Executive Committee meeting - Conference Rm
17 Rally Sunday 8:30am - Worship + KidTime 9:45am - Sunday School (ages 3—5th grade) 10:45am - Grief Support Group - Conference Room 11:00am - Worship + KidTime 12:00pm - Ministry Fair and Potluck	18 9:00am - Staff Meeting	19 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
24 8:30am - Worship + KidTime 9:45am - Sunday School (ages 3—5th grade) 9:45am - Confirmation Class 11:00am - Worship + KidTime	25 9:00am - Staff Meeting	26 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 7:00am - 7:00pm - Prayer Vigil	2
6 9:00am - Men's Group - Conference Rm.	7 9:00am - Sew In Love - CR5-6	8	9 8:00am - Paulson Garage Sale
13 9:00am - Men's Group - Conference Rm. 7:00pm - Confirmation Orientation	14 9:00am - Sew In Love - CR5-6	15 Voice Articles Due	16
20 9:00am - Men's Group - Conference Rm. 1:00pm - Combined WELCA Circles 6:30pm - Confirmation Class 6:30pm - High School Kickoff - Loft	21 9:00am - Sew In Love - CR5-6	22 6:00pm - Movie Night - McFarland, USA  6:30pm - Crafting Night - Community Room	23
27 9:00am - Men's Group - Conference Rm. 6:30pm - Confirmation Class 6:30pm - High School Escape Room - Loft	28 9:00am - Sew In Love - CR5-6	29	30

