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For five Thursdays, beginning March 13, **Holden Evening Prayer** will be offered. This beloved evening service lasts about thirty minutes and is a wonderful way to end the day.

OUR REDEEMER'S

LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE VOICE

March 2025



Thank you to all who participated in the **Annual Congregational Meeting** on February 9. A double thanks to all the great cooks who shared their dishes! If you've not yet read the 2024 Annual Report, you can find it here <http://alturl.com/4rne8>. Copies are also available in the entryway. There's a lot to celebrate.

An ad hoc team has recently updated the **Facility Use Policy** <http://alturl.com/voet4>. Our Redeemer's hosts a variety of groups in our building throughout the year. On any given week there could be a scout troop holding a Pinewood Derby, the Helena Symphony rehearsing for an upcoming concert, a joyful family reunion, or a regional AA convention. The Facility Use Policy helps us share our building in a responsible way. A reminder that, per this policy, church property and equipment are not to be removed from the premises.

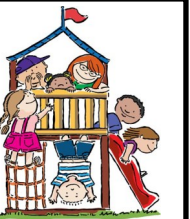


Lent begins March 5 with **Ash Wednesday**. A service of holy communion with imposition of ashes will be offered at 12:00pm and 6:30pm. A bread and soup supper will be at 5:30pm. For five Thursdays, beginning March 13, **Holden Evening Prayer** will be offered. This beloved evening service lasts about thirty minutes and is a wonderful way to end the day.

Beginning March 18, Our Redeemer's will host a weekly **Alcoholic Anonymous** meeting on Tuesdays evenings. Alcoholic Anonymous is a fellowship of people who come together to solve their drinking problem. Meetings are free. There are no age or education requirements to participate. Membership is open to anyone who wants to do something about their drinking problem.



Please help pass the word that **Our Redeemer's Preschool** is offering three weeks of summer camp in June and an extended class schedule for Fall 2025. Celebrating 25 years of serving families and children in Helena, the preschool is a great outreach ministry, with most of the families not part of our congregation. For more information or to register, visit <https://www.ourredeemerlives.org/preschool/>



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

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

Introduction to *See Through the Scriptures* Workshop

March 2
Adult Education

Pastor Brad Ulgenes will share an introduction to *See Through The Scriptures* Workshop at the adult education class on Sunday, March 2 between services beginning at 9:45am. This is for members and friends who might be interested in the Bible workshop March 29 from 9:00am - 4:00pm but want to see what the workshop will be like. Come and see a few examples from this exciting study!

See Through The Scriptures Bible Workshop - March 29

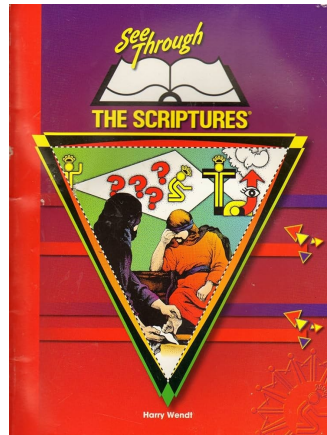
Pastor Brad Ulgenes will lead a six-hour Bible workshop using a manual called *See Through The Scriptures* on Saturday, March 29 from 9:00am to 4:00pm. The cost of the manual for the workshop will be \$15. For an additional \$5, participants can order a workbook (not mandatory) that can be used for personal study following the workshop. Free or loaner manuals will be available for those who request one. The church will provide a free Jimmy John's sandwich for lunch for members of Our Redeemer's.

Understanding the Bible can be daunting. *See Through The Scriptures* makes the Bible more accessible by taking readers step by step through the entire biblical narrative, especially the Old Testament, putting everything in clear context. 44 full color teaching graphics are used to help people grasp and remember the key events and concepts of the Bible, especially the three major covenants in the Old Testament and how Jesus in the New Testament fulfills those covenants. *See Through the Scriptures* is part of the Crossways/Divine Drama series authored by Pastor Harry Wendt.

Students will gain a new appreciation for everything that preceded Jesus in order to more fully understand the deeper meaning of Jesus' ministry and his message of love and servanthood. This workshop is perfect for students who have not studied the Bible before and will teach mature Bible readers new Biblical concepts and overarching themes in the Bible to enrich their faith.

Sign up for the Bible workshop and materials will begin February 16 in the church entryway and end March 9. You can also call the church office at 406-442-7842. You can also email Pastor Brad at brad.ulgenes@gmail.com to sign up, ask questions or get information. Sorry no zoom or streaming of this workshop.

Pray about attending this exciting Bible workshop on March 29 as part of your Lenten journey. Come and bring a friend. It will change your understanding and knowledge of the Bible and it will be a lot of fun!



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, Office Manager

LoriW@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Sarah Magee, Director of Finance

Sarah@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Jason Callon, Director of Worship and Music

Jason@OurRedeemerLives.Org

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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 Ministry Associate

Jan Martin, Lay Ministry Associate

Jeff Martin, Lay Ministry Associate

Kevin Mathews, Lay Ministry Associate

Lisa Williams-Mathews, Lay Ministry Associate

Brenda Stoltz, Preschool Director

Brenda@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Wendy Vukonich, Preschool Teacher

Wendy@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Marie Grissom, Preschool Teacher

Marie@OurRedeemerLives.Org

Kristen Sapp, Preschool Teacher

Kristen@OurRedeemerLives.Org

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

Voice articles due on the 15th of each month

Saturday, March 15 at 5:00pm

LoriW@OurRedeemerLives.Org

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:

Attila Fohnagy, President

president@ourredeemerlives.org

208-640-3198

Liaison: Facilities and Administration

Ingrid Childress, Past President

ichildress@bresnan.net

406-431-3344

Liaison: Facilities and Administration

Tracey Tintinger, Treasurer

tvting@bresnan.net

406-459-8478

Liaison: Finance

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ralinelson@yahoo.com

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Liaison: Outreach

Edward Johnson, Member at Large

edwardmartinjohnson62@gmail.com

406-492-6177

Liaison: Worship

Jennifer Colegrove, Member at Large

colegrove@bresnan.net

406-465-3453

Liaison: Congregational Care and Fellowship

Sarah Sampson, Member at Large

sarahmarieirvin@hotmail.com

406-460-0133

Liaison: Faith Formation

Mary Kay Linke, Member at Large

marykaylinke@gmail.com

406-465-1099

Liaison: Outreach

Charlie Gorman, Member at Large

cegorman3@gmail.com

406-202-9509

Liaison: Worship

Charlotte Neill, Member at Large

cneill001@luthersem.edu

651-587-8083

Liaison: Faith Formation

Jack Palmer, Member at Large

johnpalmerpro@gmail.com

406-274-8566

Liaison: Congregational Care and Fellowship



March BIRTHDAYS

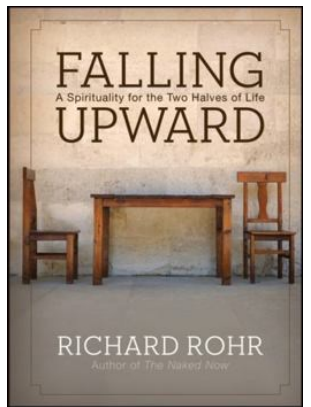
3/2 Ivy Brott	Drew Sielbach	3/19 Loren Davis	Ed Peachey
Richard Carey	3/9 Pat Lumma	Tami Ellis	3/27 Katy Callon
Elaine Heen	3/10 Lowell Anderson	Larry Hanson	Lyanne DenHerder
Clint Ohman	Thomas Guariglia	Kendall Smith	3/28 Mark Lauf
Kathy Olson	Brianna Plant	3/21 Linda Young	Jim Penner
3/3 Kyle Begger	Audrey Willard	3/22 Travis Elder	Ryan Quinn
Kash Helfert	3/11 Brinley Mingay	Laura Gorman	Vadine Rispens
3/4 Joan Anderson	Christy Weikart	Dylan Willcut	Pat Sampson
Mariah Swenson	3/13 Andi Michason	3/23 Donna Greenwood	3/31 Ken Richmond
3/5 Sawyer Linke	Jessica Willcut	Pr. Trina Johnsten	
Lorna Meyer	3/14 Herbert Kulow	Chloe MacIntyre	
David Swenson	3/17 Dillon Harris	Marian Paulson	
3/6 Isaac Callon	Tracey Tintinger	Julie Penner	
3/7 Kacey Salo	3/18 Dave Carlson	3/26 Sean Maharg	

Falling Upward by Richard Rohr Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Are you living and loving your golden years, or maybe not? The second half of life is more than getting old, health issues, and loss. We'll be offering insights in a six-week discussion based on Richard Rohr's book, *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*. Our first gathering is on **Tuesday, March 11, 6:30- 8:30pm** at Our Redeemer's

Lutheran Church, 3580 North Benton Avenue. We will have six gatherings, finishing on April 15.

Facilitators are Father Dan Shea and Charlotte Neill. The book is available on Amazon. Both 2011 and 2023 editions, new or used, are appropriate.



Father Dan Shea
406-422-6674 (text)
dshea@carroll.edu (email)
406-449-2521 (voicemail)

Charlotte Neill
651-587-8083 (text or voicemail)
cneill001@luthersem.edu (email)

90+ years old

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

Elaine Heen (age 93 - March 2)
915 Saddle Dr. Apt. 171
Helena, MT 59601

Loren Davis (age 91 - March 19)
3980 McHugh Ln
Helena, MT 59602

Ken Richmond (age 90 - March 31)
716 Harrison Ave.
Helena, MT 59601



March Anniversaries

Celebrate with those married 40 years or more this month!

3/19/1983	Carl & Denise Richards	42 years
3/18/1967	Bonner & Karen Armstrong	58 years
3/25/1961	Dale & Judy Mickus	64 years

Aloha from Preschool!

(That's just wishing for warmer weather!)

Our Preschool Registration for the 2025-2026 school year is well underway. Our Redeemer's Preschool offers classes for 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old students. Classes are structured to provide age-appropriate learning opportunities for each child to experience success in a Christian setting. Our passion is to prepare children for life's adventures by letting them experience the joys of learning, friendships, and God's love through both play-based and instructional methods. Please visit our web page at <https://ourredeemerlives.org/preschool/> to learn more information about our program and classes. The brochure and registration form are also available on the website.

Summer Preschool Camps Registrations are now available. Please follow the link <https://ourredeemerlives.org/preschool/> to the registration form before camps fill up. There will be some fun themes such as *Pirates & Mermaids*, *Stars & Stripes*, *Winter in June*, *Disney Week*, *Camp Pawesome*, and *Creepy Crawlies*. Classes are June 2-20 and can be ½ day or full day attendance.

Parent-Teacher Conferences in January were completed and successful. What a great process to see a child's growth.

February 21 will bring a fun Family Day to the Great Northern Carousel. Students will be able to ride on the carousel and enjoy a scoop of ice cream. Families always look forward to our fun family days.

Tax receipts for tuition paid during 2024 have been provided to the parents in January.

Assistants needed! If you are, or anyone you may know, might be interested in being a part of our fantastic preschool program, please let us know. We are currently receiving applications for a PreK teacher and a couple teaching assistants for next year's preschool.

Brenda Stoltz
Preschool Director

Whitley and Kyle Begger
Abigail (10), Alice (8), Grady (5)

Kyle is an officer in the MT National Guard and Whitley is a social worker at a pediatric psychology clinic. Abigail loves animals of all kinds, and enjoys reading, soccer and skiing. Alice enjoys time with family and friends and is a talented ballerina. Grady is interested in all kinds of sports and roughhousing with his dad. They enjoy outdoor activities as a family.



Nicole and Justin Russeff
Wyatt (10), Owen (3)

Justin works repairing elevators all over the region and Nicole manages all that swirls around them. Wyatt will start confirmation this fall and enjoys baseball, fishing, reading and cooking. Owen likes to sing and dance, and loves trains.



Octavia and Michael Welch
Penny (11), Asher (8), Oliver (5)

Michael is a dentist here in Helena. Octavia enjoys reading and singing and keeping up with three busy kids. She was part of the kitchen crew for VBS last year. Penny is a 5th grader enjoys writing stories. Asher is a 3rd grader loves to read and to tinker with gadgets. Oliver is in kindergarten and likes to wrestle.



Katie Kuhns and Drake McArthur
Laurel (6), Lily (3)

They moved here from New Orleans 1.5 years ago for Drake as a radiologist at St. Peter's. Katie has a PhD+ in cancer and volunteers in Laurel's class, accompanies Lily to a variety of activities, and wants to learn how to make lefsa! Her mom recently moved to Helena and lives at Touchmark.



TJ Hunt

TJ grew up Lutheran in Ritzville, WA (his mom is currently president of congregation) and has lived in Helena for ten years. He's a supervisor for the Montana Department of Labor & Industry and has two children, ages 10 and 8. The Hunt family's backyard bumps up against the Byrne family's, and they encouraged TJ to check out Our Redeemer's.

Long Term Prayer Concerns

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

Our Members

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Gordon Blomquist | Greg Johnson | Nikki MacMillan | Ron Pecarina |
| Richard Carey | Noreen Johnson | Lorna Meyer | Laurie Simms |
| Roberta Carey | Carol Kimble | Dale Mickus | Ruth Straley |
| Jim Haubein | Chloe MacIntyre | Julie Mehl | |

Our Family and Friends

- Danny McCaughan** (nephew of Lori & Dave Swenson)
Scott Linke (brother of Craig Linke)
Ron Paulson (former member)
Jacki Riley (sister of Lori Walter)
Marge Johnsten (Pastor Trina's mother)

Our Seminarian

Shawn, Sara, Addie & Kaden Juers

Our Family and Friends Serving in the Military

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

SCOUTING AMERICA

As of February 8, 2025, the organization's 115th anniversary, Boy Scouts of America is now rebranded as Scouting America. It may take some time for a complete rebranding but the change is coming. One reason for the name change is the organization's efforts to be more inclusive by welcoming girls in Cub Scout Packs (kindergarten through grade 5) and Scouting Troops (grade 6 through grade 12).

Cub Scout Pack 207 members meet at Our Redeemer's on a weekly basis. Some recent activities include the following: outdoor caroling, Toys for Tots donation event, Chariot Race (cardboard chariots with scout "horses & riders"), Pine Wood Derby car building, and Pine Wood Derby racing.

Kelley Bundt has been the Cubmaster of Pack 207 for two and a half years, but working directly as an adult volunteer for six total years. She will be stepping down at the end of this scouting year (June 2025) to work more directly with her daughter's second grade Wolf den next fall. Kelley has been working with other volunteer adults and has been a stabilizing presence and helped grow Pack 207 to its current 35 scout membership. With

Kelley stepping down, Pack 207 will need a new Cubmaster. We are asking you to consider taking on the opportunity to be Cubmaster (or another equally important adult leadership role) to help contribute to the continued success of Cub Scout Pack 207.

A Cubmaster's responsibilities include the following: attend two monthly adult planning meetings, plan and help carry out the Cub Scouting program in the pack according to the policies of Scouting America, develop and execute a year-round recruitment plan, establish and communicate an event calendar, and lead the monthly pack meeting with the help of other leaders. Scouting America provides online and in-person training opportunities to support volunteers. Also, the current adult leaders are more than willing to support new leaders as well.

Please contact Kelley Bundt, the Pack 207 Cubmaster mtpack207@gmail.com, or Drew Sielbach, Our Redeemer's Charter Organization Representative dfshelena@gmail.com, if you are interested in learning more about Scouting or becoming the Cubmaster.



Spring 2024 Adopt-a-Highway clean-up



Chariot Race practice at Our Redeemer's

HUNGER TEAM NEWS

Hosting Family Promise

Thank you to everyone who helped with hosting our Family Promise guests in early February. Many of you helped with preparing the rooms at our church, serving as overnight hosts, preparing a meal for our guests, or praying for these families. The Hunger Team appreciates your willingness to give of yourselves, your time, and energy to help these families. In the midst of all that, your willingness to be flexible to meet the last-minute needs of folks whose lives are easily interrupted means that you truly understand the meaning of "hospitality."

Annual Comfort Food Challenge

This annual event is the largest fundraiser for Family Promise each year. This day of fun-filled activity will take place at the Lewis and Clark Fairgrounds on Sunday, March 23, 3:00-6:00pm. Cost is \$25 per person or \$45 per family. Tickets are available from our volunteer coordinators, Kathy Olson and Phyllis Michaelson. They may also be purchased at Birds and Beasleys, the Blackfoot River Brewing Company, and the Myrna Loy, or at the door the day of the Challenge. While you're there, be sure to stop by the Table for Our Redeemer's. Thanks to the generosity of the Swenson Family, we shall be serving kettle corn this year.

Kendra Wilde Hunger Endowment Fund

The Hunger Team recently allocated earnings of \$631.80 (for 2 quarters in 2024). Half of the funds were donated to Lutheran Disaster Fund to assist with those affected by recent fires in California. The other half of the funds were donated to Good Samaritan, to be used at Our Place. Our Place recently relocated its mental health services to the former ReStore, owned by Habitat for Humanity. If you are interested in contributing to this endowment fund, you may do so by giving directly to the fund online or noting the Kendra Wilde Hunger Fund on the memo line of your check.

Kid Packs

Thanks once again to all those who show up at Helena Food Share just to walk in circles for an hour on the first three Tuesdays of every month. You now work like a well-oiled machine, filling those kid packs in record time. Our Redeemer's will continue to assemble Kid Packs throughout March and April. After the summer break, assemblies will resume in October.

Do You Have a Green Thumb?

The Hunger Team is looking for someone to assist with garden management this summer. Elaine Ulgenes will manage the rental plots, but we are in need of someone to coordinate a great group of volunteers (Carroll College students, Boy Scouts, Vacation Bible School kids, and Hunger Team members) who plant, weed, and harvest a section of the garden for Helena Food Share. Volunteers are more than willing to help. They just need someone to manage their efforts. If you are interested, please contact Vicki Downhour (406) 465-2197 for more details. Carroll students usually start planting sometime in April.

First Communion Preparation

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

Please save these dates:

⇒ **April 13 at 1:00pm - Fed and Forgiven:**
An instructional time for both communicant and parents about Holy Communion.

⇒ **Maundy Thursday, April 17 at 6:30pm -**
We invite the children and their families to celebrate their deepened understanding of communion and for those who are not yet communing, to receive their First Communion.



An invitation will be sent to all second, third and fourth grade children and their families. If you have any questions, please contact Liz at

liz@ourredeemerlives.org or Pastor Trina at trina@ourredeemerlives.org.

March Schedule

- 2 Sunday School —Widow's Mite
- 5 Ash Wednesday Dinner/Worship @ 5:30
- 9 Sunday School — Mary & Martha
- 9 Open Bowl—Sleeping Giant Lns.@12pm
- 16 Sunday School —Mary & Martha
- 23 Sunday School —Mary & Martha
- 30 Spring Break—No Sunday School!



Vacation Bible School 2025

Theme: True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World!

Dates: June 23-26, 2025

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



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

<https://forms.gle/g2C85RovDnnE2CDd8>



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

- ◆ Craft Leaders/Assistants
- ◆ Classroom Leaders /Assistants
- ◆ Games
- ◆ Kitchen
- ◆ Storyteller/Puppeteers
- ◆ Set-up and Clean-up



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

WELCA College Scholarship Application

PART 1: Basic Information Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Name of Parents: _____

Date of Birth: _____ High School Attended: _____

PART 2: Student Activities and Awards

Student Activities in High School: _____

High School Honors & Awards: _____

Our Redeemer's Activities: _____

PART 3: Financial Component and School Information

Other Scholarships Applied For: _____

Employment (if any): _____

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

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

Please place in an envelope and drop off the application to the church office. Thank you.

WELCA Mission Kit Assistance Requests

We will be working on assembling Baby Care Kits in April, so in March we are requesting more of the essential items that we need to fill our kits.

What more do we need:

- Baby Socks - Sizes 1-3
- Diaper Pins or large Safety pins
- Ivory Soap 8 to 9oz in original packaging
- Receiving blankets made of cotton flannel or knitted/crocheted (Minimum size 36" up to 52" square)

We have also set dates in March to assemble our School Kits, so if you have time, mark your calendar to come help us assemble. We have set two dates and

times, so pick a date and come join in the fun. Saturday, March 15 at 10:00am or Sunday, March 16 at 2:00pm in the Great Room. For more information call Elaine Ulgenes at 406-399-0717.

Also, if you love shopping the VA Thrift store, Good Samaritan or any other local Thrift Shops, we are seeking people to help us find the items needed for our Baby Care Kits. This can be done throughout the year and then brought to the church where we collect the items. If you might be interested please call Nikki Whearty, Coordinator at 406-461-2933.

WELCA College Scholarship Information

Qualifications:

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

Instructions:

1. Complete the application form.
2. Provide a letter of recommendation from two adults, one from within your church family.
3. Transcript from your last two years of high school.
4. Deadline to apply is May 1, 2025. Please return your completed information in a manila envelope to the church office addressed to:

WELCA - President
College Scholarships

Payment of Scholarship:

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

1. Student must carry a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester.
2. A GPA of 2.0 must be maintained.
3. A copy of your college transcript must be sent to the following address at the end of your school year:

WELCA, President, 3580 N. Benton Avenue, Helena, MT 59602

4. Student must provide WELCA the name of the school they will be attending and their student ID by August 1 of the year scholarship is awarded. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of scholarship.

middle school.
Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church



Save the Date

Confirmation Sunday is May 4 at the 11:00am service with a brunch to follow in the Community Room. A letter with more detail will be going out soon to those families.
Adults - if you are interested in helping the day of, please talk to Steph.



**Register now for
FLATHEAD LUTHERAN
BIBLE CAMP**

You can register for camp on their website at flbc.net.

You select your week at camp and pay a deposit of \$100 to reserve your spot. Then tell Steph or Liz that you did so, and then the church will help you pay the rest. In addition, if your child needs a ride to camp, please let Steph know. She is working on getting transportation to and from camp. Our Redeemer's will be going two different weeks for on-site camp.

July 6 - 11, 2025

&

July 13 - 18, 2025

OPEN BOWLING EVENT

**This event is for youth of all ages.
Join us at Sleeping Giant Lanes on
Sunday, March 9, beginning at noon.**



high school.
Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church



Save the Date

We will honor our high school graduates on May 18 at the 11:00am service with a brunch to follow in the Community Room. A letter with more detail will be going out soon to those families.

HIGH SCHOOL BACKHIKING TRIP

at Christikon

July 27-Aug 2, 2025



Ash Wednesday- March 5

Soup dinner from 5:30-6:30pm.
Service at 6:30pm.

Youth will be prepping the ashes on February 26 and be sitting together during the service.



Financial Plan for Solar Panels

Herb Kulow and Nelson Bock presented the financial plan for solar panel installation, pending the approval of a grant from Northwest Energy. The Council officially approved to move \$170,000 from the Mission Investment Fund to a one-year Certificate of Deposit at Valley Bank, consistent with action taken by the congregation at its annual meeting earlier in the month. This action will increase the interest rate from 2.5% to 3.85%.

January Financial Report and Recommendations

The Council agreed to forward the Building Fund amount of \$7173.23 and the Dedicated Fund amount of \$6523.01 to the Mission Investment Fund. They decided to hold the donation to the Synod (\$1,748.70) and FLBC (\$500) until the cash flow is in a bit more stable position.

Pastor Trina's Report Summary

Pastor Trina updated the Council on some of the changes in schedule for the preschool, beginning Fall 2025. There will be extended days and times available for children, and the tuition will increase slightly, to remain in line with other preschools in the area. Jennifer Colegrove offered to attend monthly preschool board meetings as the Council liaison.

Unfinished Business

- Jennifer Colegrove agreed to serve as Second Vice-President for 2025, and she will head the nominating committee.
- The Council is still seeking a Council member to serve as First Vice-President.
- A revised Facility Use Policy has been approved. Details of that policy can be found on the church's website.
- New members on the Council have been added as liaisons in line with the congregation's organizational plan. Charlotte Neill will serve on Faith Formation. Jack Palmer will serve on Congregational Care and Fellowship, and Charlie Gorman will serve on Worship. Please see the additional article which explains more about this structure and the ways in which the Council is working to be more connected to all ministries at Our Redeemer's.

New Business

- Pastor Trina requested that the Emergency Assistance Fund be renamed the Special Assistance Fund. Some of the needs of the congregation and community do not technically qualify as emergencies, but they are still genuine needs that arise and need immediate attention. Most requests are small, for things like lodging, gasoline or groceries. The Council felt this name change was appropriate.
- The Council approved a measure to offer pre-school tuition as a benefit for Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church staff members. Beginning in the fall of 2025, pre-school tuition will be offered equivalent to the FTE of the staff member. (For example, a full-time employee would receive 100% tuition, and a half-time employee would receive 50% tuition.) The congregation will cover the cost of this tuition; it will not be a discount absorbed by the preschool.

Linda Nelson
Secretary

The Call Committee would like to update you further on where we are in the call process with the outstanding candidate we mentioned in February. The candidate is still regarded very highly by the Call Committee. References have been checked, and the recommendations from those individuals have been very strong. We have reviewed more of the materials the candidate has made available to us and have no doubt that many of the gifts and talents we have been looking for are well exemplified by this individual. The gifts of preaching, teaching, creativity, and innovation have been clearly demonstrated. The candidate's ability to quickly develop relationships will assist with our Youth and Family Ministries and Pastoral Care and Visitation. We are fine-tuning a Helena visitation schedule with the candidate, including time for the candidate to meet the staff and council and spend time with Pastor Trina. We are excited but are ensuring we continue to follow through with our process for interviewing the candidate. We still must come to a satisfactory employment package, but the committee continues to be excited and very optimistic. We are thoughtfully looking forward to when we might present the candidate to the full congregation. We thank the Lord for his wisdom and guidance in this call.

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

Thank you

To the faithful and generous people of Our Redeemer's,

I want to personally say how appreciative I am of your warm welcome and hosting of our students February 1 and 2. Your worship service was a delight and quite powerful for many of us. Several mentioned to me, some of whom had not been to a church in quite some time, how much they appreciated the focus on God's love, acceptance, and grace. For a lot of our students and staff, hope is hard to find these days. I believe Christ's hope truly lives in intentional and faithful community. You provided that to us in an amazing way. Thank you SO much!

Eric Huseth
Campus Pastor at the University of Montana

Dear Our Redeemer's Lutheran,

THANK YOU for your warm and generous hospitality on February 1 and 2. The accommodations were perfect for our groups. The welcome on Sunday during worship was particularly meaningful. The chants for the Griz and Cats along with the UM and MSU gear in the sanctuary made us feel at home. God willing, we hope to do this with you again someday.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. JP Carlson
Montana State University



What Is the Council Organization Plan?

CAREGIVER'S SUPPORT GROUP

The words "in sickness and in health" recited as a part of the traditional wedding ceremony sometimes seem far away and not applicable to couples sharing vows. "Honor your father and mother" are commands that may come to mind when parents experience health changes and require assistance. Caregiving is a roller coaster with highs and lows arriving unexpectedly. A group of individuals who provide support for loved ones meet monthly to share their experiences along the caregiving journey. We gather at Our Redeemer's in the Conference Room on **Sunday, March 23 at 9:45am**. Please join us to share stories, challenges, and joys. Companionship for your loved one is provided.



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

The grief group will meet Sunday March 9 at 9:45am. The group seeks to support each other as we journey through grief. Stories of loved ones, bumps along our journeys are shared so that no one feels they are walking alone. All who have suffered a loss are welcome. If you have questions feel free to call facilitators Jane or Lori.



If you wish to speak to one of the leaders during the week or have any questions, please get in touch with us at the following numbers: Lori Bigwood-Pecarina 406-672-2470 OR Jane Peachey 234-567-1461

Touchmark Worship Services

Our Redeemer's members provide a worship and communion service monthly at Touchmark Retirement Community. We will meet on **Tuesday, March 18, at 10:00am** in the forum. Lori Bigwood-Pecarina LMA and Sharlene Kolb will provide leadership. If you would like to worship with them and our member residents at Touchmark, you are welcome to attend. Touchmark is located at 915 Saddle Drive.

Touchmark Ash Wednesday Worship

Join us at Touchmark on Ash Wednesday, March 5, at 10:00am for a short service with the imposition of ashes.

In October of 2023, the Church Council engaged in a planning retreat to work on organizational structure. The goal of the event was to organize the Council in ways that could best represent all the ministries of the church and to open lines of communication between all our varied ministries and the Church Council.

That process resulted in listing six areas of Our Redeemer's that are involved in active ministry.

- **Outreach**-This includes all the many ways in which the church assists community organizations, as well as our many donations to Lutheran World Relief. Some examples include the Hunger Team's work with Helena Food Share and Family Promise, as well as the donations from Sew in Love to the Friendship Center, and the quilts, baby kits, personal care kits, and school kits assembled by the Women of the ELCA.
- **Faith Formation**-This ministry includes every age group in the church. Children and youth faith formation is facilitated by our Director of Youth and Family Ministry and our Director of Youth Ministry. They, of course, depend upon many volunteers to assist them in this ministry. Adult faith formation includes a variety of small group studies that meet at a variety of times during the year.
- **Worship**-This ministry includes everything that happens during worship in our congregation. Our Director of Worship and Music, in cooperation with our pastor, organizes most of the worship experiences. But many helpful volunteers assist with everything from music to greeting and preparing communion elements.
- **Congregational Care and Fellowship**-This ministry focuses on the many needs of the congregation. Most of this work is done by volunteers. They do everything from meeting for coffee and providing funeral luncheons to visiting the sick and leading support groups for those with special needs. Jane Peachey is presently organizing some of these activities while we are without an associate pastor.
- **Finance**-This ministry allows us to give of our time and talents by providing the financial resources for all the other ministries. The treasurer of the Council is essential to this ministry.
- **Facilities and Administration**-This ministry provides for the church's building and grounds. It also assists the staff and congregation in planning the use of its resources. The physical needs of the building are important, but this ministry also focuses on the required church committees required by the Constitution: Stewardship, Long-range Planning, Personnel, and Nominating.

Each issue of The Voice lists the names and contact information for all Council members. You will note that each Council member has chosen one of these ministries as his/her focus of interest. That person serves as a liaison to that ministry. They will try to reach out to you and make a connection. But equally important, you should feel comfortable in approaching those persons if you have concerns that you would like for the Council to address. These are your elected representatives. They are there to serve the needs of the entire congregation.

March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
2 8:30am - Worship + KidTime 9:45am - Sunday School 9:45am - Confirmation - Loft 9:45am - Adult Education - Introduction to <i>See Through the Scriptures</i> workshop 11:00am - Worship + KidTime	3 10:00am - Staff Meeting	4 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 10:30am - Knitters for Peace
9 Daylight Savings Time 8:30am - Worship + KidTime 9:45am - Sunday School 9:45am - Confirmation - Loft 9:45am - Grief Support Group - Conference Room 11:00am - Worship + KidTime 12:00pm - Youth Bowling at Sleeping Giant Lanes	10 10:00am - Staff Meeting 6:00pm - Preschool Advisory Board Meeting - Conference Rm	11 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 10:30am - Knitters for Peace
16 8:30am - Worship + KidTime 9:45am - Sunday School 9:45am - Confirmation - Loft 11:00am - Worship + KidTime 12:30pm - Executive Committee - Conference Room 2:00pm - Babycare Kit Assembly - Community Room	17 10:00am - Staff Meeting	18 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 10:00am - Touchmark Worship and Communion 10:00am - WELCA Board - Small Conference Room 10:30am - Knitters for Peace 5:30pm - Council Meeting
23 8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday School 9:45am - Confirmation - Loft 9:45am - Care Givers Support Group - Conference Room 11:00am - Worship	24 10:00am - Staff Meeting	25 9:00am - Quilting for Lutheran World Relief –CR#5-6 10:30am - Knitters for Peace 6:30pm - Hunger Team - Conference Room
30 8:30am - Worship 11:00am - Worship		

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1
5 Ash Wednesday 9:00am - Men's Group - Great Room 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer - Youth Loft 10:00am - Touchmark Ash Wed. Worship 12:00pm - Ash Wednesday Worship 5:30pm - Soup Supper 5:30pm - Youth Night 5:30pm - Confirmation 6:30pm - Ash Wednesday Worship	6 9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6	7	8
12 9:00am - Men's Group - Great Room 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer - Youth Loft 6:00pm - Youth Night 6:00on - Confirmation	13 9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6 6:30pm - Holden Evening Prayer Worship	14	15 Voice Articles Due 10:00am - Babycare Kit Assembly
19 9:00am - Men's Group - Great Room 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer - Youth Loft 1:00pm - WELCA Bible Study 6:00pm - Youth Night 6:00on - Confirmation	20 9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6 6:30pm - Holden Evening Prayer Worship	21	22
26 9:00am - Men's Group - Great Room 9:00am - Contemplative Prayer - Youth Loft 6:00pm - Youth Night 6:00on - Confirmation	27 9:30am - Sew In Love - CR5-6 6:30pm - Holden Evening Prayer Worship	28	29 9:00am - <i>See Through the Scriptures</i> Bible Workshop