

# OUR REDEEMER

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

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August 2017



From the desk of Pastor Matt Nelson

“...for such a time as this”

Esther 4.14

She was a young woman thrust into the presence of a vain, powerful, and very dangerous king. She was chosen for her beauty to be his queen, but she remembered who she was and listened to her uncle, the man who had raised her. Now this King was taken in by a crafty counselor who for his own reasons, wanted the young woman's people eliminated – wholesale genocide – and the king ordered it. The young woman was frightened because no one knew that she was from among this people – she reasonably feared for her life, but her uncle urged her to speak to the king on behalf of her people.

The young woman was afraid because anyone who entered the king's inner court without having been invited by the king was immediately under penalty of death, unless the king extended to them his staff. The girl's uncle reminded her that perhaps it was for “such a time as this” that she had been brought into the King's household.

Though she was terrified when she went in to see him, with relief she saw him extend his scepter to her and asked what he could do for his young queen. She presented a simple plan to him that culminates in her revelation that she was among this minority people who were to be executed and how the King's evil counselor had arranged all this to feed his grudge against the people.

Well, there is lots of intrigue and gallows building and the savagery of war, but in the end God preserved His people and He used a young Jewish woman to do it. You should sit down and read the book of Esther for the whole story – its a real gripper!

But those words of Mordecai, Esther's faithful uncle really stand out for us as Christians. Perhaps it is for such a time as this that God has

given YOU the gifts you possess, the opportunities YOU have, the friendships, the job, the family...all your God-given vocations offer themselves for service to the neighbor and the LORD. This is how we need to see ourselves – always asking, was it for such a time as this that God has given me the ability to make a difference with the Gospel?

But, you say, “I am only a child,” “I am only a worker,” “I am not strong or well-known, or educated.” But to you God's Words says simply “...FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS?” You can serve, you can help, you can accomplish what God wills in your lives. And it isn't just a one-time thing is it? We know better. The question “am I here right now by God's will” is asked by us many times in a day. As a Mom or Dad, as a student with a summer job, as worker, boss, pastor, church member, as a citizen.

God used a scared young woman to save a people. God has used you to assist, aid, love, nurture your neighbors and He's using you still. We Christians live as a people called to action and that action is this: to love the neighbor using the particular gifts that God has given you ...for such a time as this.”

The Peace of the LORD be with you dear friends.

- Pastor Nelson

### Communion Schedule

#### August

- 6 - 11:00 am
- 13 - 8:30 am
- 20 - 11:00 am
- 27 - 8:30 am

#### September

- 3 - 11:00 am
- 10 - 8:30 am
- 17 - 11:00 am
- 24 - 8:30 am

## Lending a Hand in August

**Ushers:** (early) Ron Schell and Ken Strauch (late) Larry Workman & Eric Creighton  
**Greeters:** (early) Ken and Carol Strauch  
**Money Counters:** Diane Nelson and Bev Oleson  
**Altar Guild:** Kathy Wing  
**Music:** Joyce Baumgartner, Rae Workman, Nancy Landell, Jack Polzin, Tammy Jordt  
**Acolytes:** Joey Peters, Georgia Morrell, Olivia Avsec, Vivian Eberhart

## Blessings on your special day! Birthdays



- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 - Scott Johnson      | 17 - Peggy Martin    |
| 1 - Jordyn MacNeill    | 18 - Donna Martinsen |
| 4 - Denise Falkner     | 19 - Rich McCullough |
| 6 - Espen Erickson     | 21 - Alice Addington |
| 6 - Dennis O'Boyle     | 22 - Mary Mamuzich   |
| 6 - Robert Starling    | 22 - Maurice Turner  |
| 7 - Jesse Jacobs       | 23 - Art Delventhal  |
| 11 - Alex Ekholt       | 24 - Jamison Wing    |
| 21 - McKenzie Akers    | 25 - Rhonda Appleton |
| 12 - Gloria Lehmann    | 25 - Ken Strauch     |
| 13 - Justin Click      | 26 - Monda Mendive   |
| 14 - Phillip Creighton | 28 - Keller Fields   |
| 15 - Melva Henriksen   |                      |
| 15 - Kathy Wing        |                      |
| 17 - Linda Donner      |                      |

### Anniversaries

- 1 - Daniel & Donna Martinsen (7 yrs)
- 11 - Chaemous & Ashley Herbert (5 yrs)
- 13 - Rich & Colleena McCullough (23 yrs)
- 17 - Scott & Sydney Clem (4 yrs)
- 23 - Ben & Leslie Moody (9 yrs)

If you have a birthday or anniversary that falls in this month and are not listed, please update your information with Deb.

### 2017 Schedule

	Offering Counters	Altar Guild	8:30 am Worship	
			Ushers	Greeters
<b>January</b>	Alyssa K & Kayla S	Kathy S	Jack P & Erik E	Art & Louise D
<b>February</b>	Linda P & Jana D	Tina K	Jay S & Keith E	Betty T & Kathy S
<b>March</b>	Diane N & Deb Starling	Diane N	Don M & Ron S	Don & Sally M
<b>April</b>	Robin E & Heather W	Lynda Peters	Joe P & Dwyght L	Dwyght & Sandy L
<b>May</b>	Robin E & Heather W	Peg H	Josh S & Chaemous H	Lea S & Ashley H
<b>June</b>	Peg H & Penny E	Vicki A		Orville B & Nancy W
<b>July</b>	Nancy W & Vicki A	Bev O		Kathy S & Lavern K
<b>August</b>	Diane N & Bev O	Kathy W	Ron S & Ken S	Ken & Carol S
<b>September</b>	Linda P & Sally M	Diane N	Joel K & Aaron J	Art & Louise D
<b>October</b>	Nancy W & Vicki A	Gwen S	David E & Jack P	Tyler & Alyssa K
<b>November</b>	Peg H & Kayla S	Ashley H	Jay S & Joel W	Joel & Ginny Wilder
<b>December</b>	Lea S & Bev O	Peg H	Kyle S & Eric S	Don & Sally M

**Are you available to fill in the blank spots?  
 No experience needed!  
 We provide all the training!  
 Let Deb Sorenson know you are ready to volunteer!**

## Summer Sunday School

- Ages 3 - Grade 5 meet in the Education Wing. Alex and Megan Ekholt are leading this group. There will be learning centers , crafts and lessons.
- August Lessons are:
  - A Woman's Offering
  - Ten Lepers Are Healed
  - Jesus Heals a Blind Man
  - Jesus Dies & Rises
- Grades 6 - 12 meet at the back of the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 am . They will either go out for "Donuts & Devotion" or join Pastor's Class.

### September brings many activities! Mark your calendars

#### Ladies Bible Study

- Begins September 6 (1:00 pm)

#### Junior Youth Group

- Begins September 12 and is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of each month
- Time: 5:00 - 6:30 pm
- Meets in the Fellowship Hall
- Grades Preschool through Grade 5

#### Catechism Class

- Begins Sept 6 (Time: 5:30 - 6:45)
- Grades 6 & 7

#### Choir

- Anyone from high school to 110 years old
- Begins Sept 11 (6:00 pm) in the Sanctuary

#### ACT Group

- Grades 8 - 12
- Bible Study and Devotions Sunday mornings at 9:45 in ACT class room and monthly activities



## Vacation Bible School July 24 - 28 (9 am - noon)

### "Queens and Kings and Ding-a-lings"

- **Monday:** Record breaking day as 80 kids joined together to learn about David and Goliath!
- **Tuesday:** 81 kids learned about King Darius, Daniel and the lions' den
- **Wednesday:** 85 kids descended upon us to learn about Queen Esther.
- **Thursday:** 87 kids swarmed us to learn about King Nebuchadnezzar and the fiery furnace.
- **Friday:** 85 kids learned that Jesus is the KING of kings and LORD of lords.

Our float took 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in the parade.

We had 54 kids riding on the float, 8 older VBS kids plus several of our teens came to help.

We are blessed with many volunteers!



Save Box Tops for  
Trinity Lutheran School  
There will be a container for  
Box Tops in the Fellowship Hall



## Men's Breakfast & Bible Study is Back!!!!

Beginning Tuesday, August 1  
6:15 am breakfast is on the Counter.  
Come give it a try!

## North American Indian Days - 2017

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him and he helps me. . .” Some of the kids could read these words from Psalm 28 printed in a fancy cursive font across the top of a shield-shaped foam board. When reading the cursive was a struggle, I read it to them, and asked, “What do you use a shield for?” Most all of them had good answers: “for protection, to guard, stay safe. . .” Then we asked them to write their name on our “signature board,” and to always remember that they can trust Jesus to protect and guard them. A plainer printed font across the bottom of the shield made the simple declaration: “Jesus Loves You;” all except the really tiny could read those profound words. And, the kids were eager to sign our board. So, Our Redeemer’s 13th year of offering shade, snacks, cold water, crafts, coloring, and play-dough--along with sharing a few words and ideas about Jesus--for the kids at the North American Indian Days in Browning is memorialized with a colorful shield, crowded with the unique and beautiful names of our craft tent visitors. We haven’t counted the names, and probably didn’t get the signature of every kid that stopped by, but--as it’s been since our first year of outreach ministry at “Indian Days” in 2005--this year too we saw multitudes of kids during our two days of fun at Browning.

The “Lord is my Shield” theme continued with one activity where kids (or Rae) added colorful ribbon and a shield charm to laminated bookmarks with the verse from Psalm 28 printed on them. Several other “posters” of bible verses using the word “shield” adorned the inside roof beam of our tent. Occasionally, we would have one of the older kids read one of the passages aloud to us, and we would discuss it a bit. As kids colored, scratched, or created using designs of crosses, fish, or butterflies, we attempted to remind them of the truths these symbols and shapes teach us about Jesus. “Death on the cross; resurrection from death--like a butterfly from a cocoon; be fishers of men by telling others about Him. . .” These brief and basic conversations, coupled with simply offering kids the safe, shady spot to rest, activities to do, snacks to eat, and cold water to drink--all free of charge--is the gist of our simple and subtle--yet (I think) powerful, outreach to families at the annual pow-wow on the Blackfeet Reservation.

No matter where on the grounds we get to set up our tent each year, the kids find us, and they come in waves to craft and snack and hear about Jesus. This year, we were located quite near the “arbor” entrance, so the rhythmic drumming and chanting provided a lively soundtrack and

the stream of dancers clad in decorative regalia parading by offered a stunning, heritage-rich visual backdrop for our ministry moments. And even as we were assembling the shelter on Thursday afternoon, kids came by to inquire when we were going to be ready. Even before we were set-up early Friday afternoon, they began to come; some waited around until we were ready for business. At first, just a few--bunches of threes and fours--kept us occupied for the first couple of hours; then suddenly more and more came, until all benches and chairs and tables overflowed with happy, busy children. Promises that “we will be back tomorrow” seemed to work best to hint that the children ought to leave so we could get packed up before dark on Friday evening. Saturday’s occupancy remained heavy to crowded from set-up around 1:00 until giving them tubs of well-used play-dough, large handfuls of goldfish crackers, or personal bags of craft supplies, in order to encourage them to vacate late in the evening so we could pack-up, tear down the tent, and return to the Flathead.

We recognized many of the faces, remembered some of the names, and welcomed all of the beautiful children for the approximately 15 hours of time we spent at NAID. It’s awesome to see many kids year after year come have fun with us in our tent, until they “outgrow” it. Brianna,--now a senior in high school, who has been coming for at least 9 years--still stopped by with a friend for a hug and a quick craft this year. I was so excited when she told me she plans to go to college in the fall to study nursing. Aaliya--with tiny black puppy, Maui--was back this year too, essentially in and out most all of both days, creating every craft piece numerous times. What a sweet, charming young lady (and an adorable, sleepy puppy!) Little Steven, who must be only 3 or 4 years old--but I think I remember him last year, was the “play-dough king,” spending hours contentedly making cutout-bears while munching goldfish crackers; I finally gave up asking him to NOT mix the colors. And if Steven was the “play-dough king,” then Jaelyn was the “bracelet queen,” quickly learning the steps for making our new-this-year rubber band bracelet craft, and then proceeding to construct many artistic, stretchy masterpieces for herself. After that, she readily volunteered to teach any other curious crafters how to make them too. They were a unique and popular project this year; even several young guys patiently learned and enjoyed making them. Husky, shiny-braided, super friendly Joseph, who has frequented our booth for the past few years, made a few bracelets on Friday, interspersed between imaginative play-dough sessions. On Saturday, Tran and Kadis, two First Nations 14-ish-year-old young men from Alberta with dramatic, expressive eyes tentatively visited our tent for the first time.

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After a while of watching other kids construct the band-bracelets, they were intrigued and decided to try one. It was a few hours and five or six bracelets of different styles and artistic color patterns later (the last couple--for his special girl!) before Tran left in the evening, with supplies to make another back at his camp. Our traditional "scratchy-crosses," various coloring projects, more charm and bead jewelry pieces, beaded pipe-cleaner butterflies, and a few sticky-crosses to decorate with tissue paper were other crafts that kept us busy helping busy kids.

And, of course, many dedicated members helped make Our Redeemer's 13th summer of "mission work" at NAID a blessed, busy event this year. Thank you--as always--to Deb Sorenson for efficiently making the administrative arrangements for our participation again, and all the other helpful ways you make it happen each year. Pastor's promotional and PR skills encouraging member involvement are always appreciated. Rae Workman spent ample time deliberating, researching, copying, practicing, shopping, and ordering to prepare the craft ideas, and--of course--two days patiently helping in the tent as well. Thank you, my Dear! Joe Peters volunteered his pickup and time to pull the trailer to Browning and help set-up the tent. Brad Peters and Clarence Henriksen again this year donated their time and effort, braving the July heat and high-line wind to help erect the carport shelter. Thank you, Gentlemen, for your help and constant support of our Browning mission. Kathy and Dale Wing, and Betty Turner helped out on Friday afternoon. It was Betty's debut as an NAID volunteer, while Dale and Kathy are several-year veterans now. Thank you for enduring the sweltering heat, and lending your creativity, gentleness, and compassion helping kids--both with crafts and learning about Jesus. Also first-timers, Ken and Carol Strauch volunteered their Saturday afternoon to drive over and experience Indian Days with us. We are so grateful for your generous donation of time, your capable hands, and caring hearts to help with our ministry in Browning. Thank you. The Nelson clan showed up later Saturday afternoon; Pastor and Diane capably assisted with crafts and kid control, while Pastor's parents, Dr. Jim and Mrs. Marie Nelson, may have had a few moments to absorb the cultural richness of the pow-wow as they spectated in the arbor, before returning to help in a flurry of deconstructing the tent and packing up the trailer for the evening. Again, thank you all for your help, and your commitment and energy that so deeply blesses Our Redeemer's ministry. Finally, we praise God in His divine plan for bringing these volunteers and these kids together on this hot July weekend for this outreach oppor-

tunity. We pray that seeds of faith were sown, will nurture, and be harvested for His kingdom in due season.

One of the youngest visitors to our tent this year was a quiet, tiny girl named MaeKensy, who stopped in with her mother on Friday afternoon. As MaeKensy scratched or colored away and her Mom made a stretchy-band bracelet, we visited with them a bit. When they were preparing to leave, we told them "come back again to do more crafts." The mother responded with a "thank you," and added, gesturing toward her sweet little daughter, "I use to come here all the time when I was young, so wanted to bring her." My arms suddenly tingled with goose bumps--the awesome depths of God's orchestrations so powerfully revealed in this young mother's honest words. We praise God for allowing us to be part of His Divine plan sharing Him with people in Browning--now on to the next generation.

Article by Larry Workman

*Blessings*  
COUNT THEM ONE BY ONE



**Preschool begins Sept 6!!**

**We have been blessed with a full class this year and are putting interested families on a "waiting list".**

**Everyone is invited to join the preschoolers on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for Chapel at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary.**



## Council Meeting ~ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church ~ July 17, 2017

**Attendance:** Joe Peters, Don Martinus, Deb Sorenson, Pastor Nelson, Carla Heintz, Dwyght Lindberg, Peg Hoppe, Ben Moody,

**Opening:** Prayer by Pastor Nelson at 7:02 pm

**Confirm Agenda:** no additions

**Minutes:** June Council Minutes approved as presented.

### Reports:

#### Treasurer (Ben Moody)

- As of June 31, 2017 offerings are slightly behind budget (3%). Expenses exceed offerings for June due to building and grounds maintenance projects completed in June. Expenses are slightly above budget (3%).
- A copy of the Treasurer's Report is filed with minutes.

**Elders** (Brad Peters/ Larry Workman/Pat Wicks/Don Martinus) - No report

#### Evangelism (Peg Hoppe)

- **LWML** – ladies are quilting once a month during the summer. They have completed 10 quilts so far.
- **North American Indian Days** – was well attended by our members.

#### Education (Carla Heintz) –

- **Vacation Bible School** – Begins next week. There are around 40 volunteers for this program!

**Welfare** (Kathy Stamm) – No report

#### Property (Dwyght Lindberg)

- **Carpets** – completed June 20 (Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, offices and Education Wing)
- **Windows** – completed June 13 (entire building inside and out)
- **Parking lot** – completed June 20 (sealed and striped)
- **Fence** – completed June 23 (repairs to entire perimeter)
- **Air Conditioning** – completed July 7 (Fellowship Hall and offices)
- **Pews and Chairs** – scheduled to be cleaned August 17
- **Sprinkler by Pastor's Office** – not yet scheduled
- **LWML room** – window to be replaced by Dan Creighton.
- **Garbage cans** – garbage cans and rack will be removed tonight. They are not used by our church.
- **Ladies Restroom** – toilet maintenance, completed tonight.
- **Sprinkler heads** – a few heads need to be replaced.

#### Pastor Nelson

- **Visitations** – 5 members were hospitalized, 3 remain hospitalized and 2 are home recovering. If you are not receiving prayer updates from m Pastor and want to make sure he has your email.
- **Counseling** – 1 couple in premarital counseling for upcoming wedding in September.
- **Membership Instruction** – Jayme Parish and Rachel Moore have completed instruction. Jayme will be transferred to LCMS church in Helena along with his wife Heather (Jurva). Rachel Moore will be transferred to LCMS church in Butte.
- **Home Communions** – 6 members received home communions.
- **Andrew Nelson** – our son was sentenced to 15 years to MT State Prison in Deer Lodge. Working with LCMS Pastor in Deer Lodge to coordinate Pastoral visitations.
- **Pianist** – if you know of a pianist for our choir and cantata please let Pastor know.

**President's Report** (Joe Peters) – no report

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Church Policies:**
  - **Selecting Teachers and Youth Leaders** – motion by Pastor, seconded by Carla Heintz to accept policy with corrections. Motion carried.
  - **Drivers During Youth Sponsored Events** – motion by Pastor, seconded by Carla Heintz to accept policy, motion carried.
  - **Counting of Offerings** – Motion by Don Martinus, seconded by Pastor to accept policy with corrections, motion carried
  - **Charitable Support Request** – after much discussion it was decided to table until next meeting.
  - **Introductory Period Policy** – still at committee.
- **North side landscaping** – After discussion a motion by Pastor, seconded by Ben Moody to have Deb contact Pavco and T-Bend and award bid to whoever can complete it first. Motion carried. Ask company to be careful on existing pavement and to use 1/2" or 5/8" (not 3/4" rock) in mix.

### NEW BUSINESS

- none

**Closed with Lord's Prayer** Submitted by Deb Sorenson