

**SPRING 2026
SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING**



**COUNCIL ELECTION
PROGRAM SUMMARIES**

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

**825 Golf Ave SW
Pine City, MN 55063**

**Meeting to be held on
April 19, 2026
Immediately following the service.**

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
2026 Semi-Annual Spring Congregational Meeting Agenda
April 19, 2026

Opening Prayer

1. Call to Order

2. Determination of Quorum

3. Reports

- Staff Reports: Pastor John Stiles & Mandie Mishler/Grace Jahnz
- Council Report
- Financial Report
- Treasurer's Report

Call for Other Reports

4. Nominating Committee

Candidates for Church Council

1. Eric Olson 2. Kathryn Lentz 3. John Schille 4. Evan Olson 5. _____

Nominations from the floor

Vote & Results: Candidates for Church Council

5. Announcement of Mandie Mishler as CYFM Director

6. Call for Unfinished Old Business

7. Call for other New Business

8. Proposed Resolutions:

- Resolution: That the church council be given the authority to approve the minutes of the 2026 Spring Semi-Annual Meeting.
- Resolution: That we recognize our church staff: Mandie Mishler, Grace Jahnz, Todd Cummings, Rebecca Groe, Glenna Reiersen, Steve Schmidt, Nathaniel Gross and Pastor John Stiles.
- Resolution: That we recognize the council members completing their terms of service.
- Resolution: That we recognize our worship leaders, committee volunteers and all who graciously give of their time to serve Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in a variety of ways.

Adjournment

Closing Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH 2025
Semi-Annual Fall Congregational Meeting
November 2, 2025

The Semi-Annual Fall meeting was called to order by President Eric Olson at 10:13 a.m. Pastor John opened with prayer.

Elaine Garaghty declared a quorum was met.

Reports presented:

Pastor John Stiles talked about the rebuilding of the youth programming and celebrating the work that Leigha Lange provided for ORLC. Mandie Mischler and Grace Jahnz are providing interim services for children, youth and families during this time. We look forward to hiring a new director for this programming during the coming months. Wendy Reamer-Johnson continues as our intern and meeting with the intern committee.

Treasurer: Warren Leisinger gave the treasurers report. Pointed out three things: Income, expenses and operating funds. Expenses were up this past year with necessary repairs needed with the congregation generously giving to meet these needed expenses. (heating, cooling, and roof). However, giving to operating funds to meet daily expenses is down.

Financial: Steve Schmidt presented the key financial report for the fiscal year.

The budget proposal was presented with written documents included in the meeting packet provided. Discussion was held. Motion to approve the proposed budget made by Dave Beckstrand and seconded by Bette Christensen. Motion carried.

Call for other reports.

Environmental Arts report has a typing error. Sue Osterdyk pointed out that the last paragraph should say learning not leaving.

No other reports presented other than those in the meeting packet.

Nominating Committee slate of candidates was presented with the Slate of Candidates as follows:

- Synod Assembly John and Kathy Schille with alternate Dave Mettler and Brent Jahnz.
- Endowment Chelsea Troth
- Nominating Committee Lyndon Hagestuen, Wayne Hansmann, and Joyce Benson

Call for nominations from the floor. None presented.

Motion made by MaryJo Mettler and seconded by Loren Samuelson to adopt and approve the slate of candidates. Motion carried.

Unfinished business. Call made for any unfinished business. None presented.

New Business

Youth Visioning Committee Update: Nicki Thompson and Ashley Espeseth presented the update. A job description is being proposed for the Personnel Committee. The committee also recommends the Vision Team transition into a Youth Support Committee consisting of 2 active parents, 2 active youth and 2 congregational members.

Lot for Sale and Habitat for Humanity Proposal: Eric Olson presented an update and history of the lot sale and a proposal to the congregation for donating the lot to Habitat for Humanity. (The written proposal is attached.) Discussion followed. Rod Willianson presented a letter of concern from the neighbors to the church and lot. Eric O. explained that there would be an attempt to raise \$25,000 for the lot donation with two additional local churches supporting the plan. The city engineer has approved the build site with the city addressing drainage concerns and the church putting in a curb on the north side of the parking lot. Three options for the church today: accept the proposal, table the vote, or vote to remove the lot from sale. Penny Hudlow proposed to table the vote and Dell Gross seconded the motion. More discussion followed with the recommendation for Habitat for Humanity to come to speak to the congregation about their proposal. Dave Beckstrand made a motion to call the question with Pastor Stiles seconding the motion. Motion carried. The motion to table the vote carried.

Streaming the services: Dell Gross brought up the issues with the sound and streaming system with the current equipment not being adequate. Please give feedback to council members of your opinions about whether to continue streaming the services and how these issues should be addressed.

Resolutions: Eric Olson presented the following:

1. Resolution that the church council be given the authority to approve the minutes of the 2025 Fall Semi-Annual meeting.
2. Resolution that we recognize our church staff: Mandie Mishler, Grace Jahnz, Todd Cummings, Rebecca Groe, Genna Reiersen, Steve Schmidt, Nathaniel Gross and Pastor John Stiles.
3. Resolution that we recognize our worship leaders, committee volunteers and all who graciously give of their time to serve Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in a variety of ways.

Motion made by Lynn Drewa and seconded by Bonnie Menigo to accept resolutions 1. Motion carried.

Motion made by Lynne Zack and seconded by Bonnie Menigo to accept the resolutions 2 & 3. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn was made by Dave Beckstrand and seconded by John Oare to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 am with Pastor Stiles praying the Holden Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Gross

PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

This was a year of transition in our children, youth and family ministries beginning with the announcement in the summer that Leigha Lange was accepting a call in youth ministry at Hope Lutheran in Moose Lake. We celebrated her 10 years of ministry in Pine city and sent her with our blessings. I am forever grateful for her leadership, especially during my early years as we were navigating new technology and how to stay connected to kids and their families during the pandemic. I wish her God's richest blessings. In the meantime, two people stepped up to fill in the gaps working part time: Grace Jahnz with our younger kids and Mandie Mishler with the older youth. Together, they formed a great team and bought us some time to prepare for a job description, visioning team and the search process over the winter. I am pleased to announce that Mandie Mishler has accepted the call to come on staff FT beginning this summer. Both Grace and Mandie have stepped up in important ways during this year of transition. Well done, good and faithful servants!

I'm also grateful for our council leaders: Eric Olson our president, for his extra-mile work chairing our Internship Committee and organizing interviews for the hiring of a director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries and our dedicated church council members who meet monthly to tend to the overall mission of ORLC: Warren Leisinger, Lynette Kuzel, Kris Gross, Taylor Tollefson, Bette Christensen, Kathryn Lentz, Brooke Boland, Eric Olson, Jeff Tuckner, Rod Williamson, John Schille, and Elaine Garaghty. And to those completing their terms on council who have made serving in this place all the sweeter by their faith and dedication to our mission. The church staff also deserves recognition: Becca Groe, Glenna Reiersen, Todd Cummings, Steve Schmidt, and Nathaniel Gross – as well as Mandie Mishler and Grace Jahnz. I couldn't ask for a more dedicated group of people to work with at church!

This has been a year of growth and learning as we have hosted a seminary intern, Wendy Reamer-Johnson. Our training modules include two retreats in the last year: one at St. John's Abbey in Colledgeville was an intern-supervisors retreat to collaborate with others who are on this journey with seminarians. We had our second cluster retreat March 8-10 at Saint Paul's monastery in the Twin Cities. This Mother's Day we will celebrate Wendy's time with us. It has been a joy working with her in ministry, learning together and growing into what it means to be a pastor in the times in which we live. We send her with our blessing as she seeks her first call as an ordained pastor in the ELCA!

I have nothing but praise and admiration for Casey and Rosie and the fine work they're doing as teachers with the Children of Joy preschool! Even though this is not an official ministry of our church, we support the preschool in many ways. This year, enrollment is down, so we decided to increase our giving to them and made a special one-time grant from the endowment fund to supplement their budget during a lean year.

My mantra this year is to *love fiercely*. It was born out of the most significant event to happen in our state: the occupation by federal agents beginning in January. It led to the killing of two Americans and sparked protests and a nonviolent resistance movement throughout the country. As a pastor, I have been both horrified and humbled by the atrocities and tender mercies we are all capable of. I continue to advocate for "the least of these" among us and that includes offering sanctuary to those who are refugees or who are in danger. Looking forward, my heart is heavy, now that we have joined Israel in invading Iran with no end in sight. Tensions among Americans are heightened. When life feels bigger than one person can manage, I have found it helpful to focus on who's here - right here in our gathering? Sometimes just having the conversations over a cup of coffee with the people closest to you are what matters most. If we can bring people together in our small corner of the world, and inject a little hope, it can only have ripple effects throughout the rest of our state and country. I hope to never underestimate the power of the spirit where two or three are gathered.

This was my last year serving on the Synod council after completing two three-year terms. It was an honor to be a part of that decision-making body and share in their passion for the gospel throughout northeastern Minnesota. I also served on the bishops election committee over the winter to help organize surveys, recruit nominees, and plan candidate forums leading up to the bishop's election this spring. I want to thank Bishop Amy Odgren for her service these past six years. She has led us with grace and wisdom – fully present in her multi-faceted roles as pastor, bishop, and spouse these past six years. When we met during my divorce, her counsel was much appreciated, leading me toward Paul's words: "My grace is sufficient for you." The next bishop will have big shoes to fill!

I continue in my role as dean of the Kettle River Conference, organizing regular meetings of the rostered leaders in our conference and meeting regularly with the bishop and other deans for support. I plan to step down as dean this summer, as my first grandchild is expected in June and I'm wanting to devote more time to that adventure! I continue meeting occasionally with my mentor, Pastor Larry Johnson, and with a couple's counselor to help navigate the challenges and opportunities that come with dating someone new these past three years. Medically speaking, things are going well. My PSA numbers are right where they need to be with January blood work less than 0.01 detectable trace of the prostate cancer. So that's good news!

I was involved in the community theater last summer, playing guitar in the orchestra pit for "Little Shop of Horrors." It's always good to connect up with other people outside of church. I also convened a local ministerial group here in Pine City this year. We have been meeting every other month at Timber Pines for lunch. I also serve on the Committee for Reference & Counsel and write regularly for the local Pioneer newspaper and for two other publications: *The EcoFaith Network* (creation care) and *Cherish All Children* (ending human trafficking) newsletters.

I attended the bishops theological conference with Ross Murray in September at Sugar Lake Lodge near Grand Rapids, Minnesota. We learned about what it means to be a reconciling in Christ synod, especially with regards to what it means to be more open and affirming and advocating for our LGBTQIA neighbors. As a staff, we took the *Clifton Strength Finders* inventory in October to determine what gifts we bring to both our professional and personal lives. It was eye-opening and informative to see how we all bring different gifts to the table. I was also invited to the Karas farm during the harvest season! Who would've thought riding a combine with Dave & Jody would be educational? But it was wonderful to see the process of harvesting, drying, and storing the corn and is always an honor to be invited by church members into those special moments when the harvest is ready.

As I write these words, the snow is beginning to melt and seedlings are beginning to sprout in my north window. Promises of hope, rebirth and newness abound. Next week is Easter Sunday. Let that promise of new life (even in the face of death) give us renewed hope to continue shining God's light wherever we go!



Pastor John

2025 Statistics: baptisms (4), weddings (2), funerals (14), confirmed (10), new members received (19), Avg. weekly worship attendance, including online (196).

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Key Financial Statistics Comparison Report
Year-to-date
February 28, 2026

| | Feb-26 | YTD 2026 | YTD 2025 | % Change |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Income and Expenses ** | | | | |
| General Offering Income | 33,274 | 171,028 | 132,518 | 29.1% |
| Other General Operating Income | 2,290 | 14,140 | 13,355 | 5.9% |
| Total Available for Expense Payment(General Operating) | 34,758 | 185,168 | 145,873 | 26.9% |
| Compensation Expenses | 18,235 | 93,920 | 92,161 | 1.9% |
| Missions Support Expense | 1,510 | 15,365 | 5,446 | 182.1% |
| Other General Operating Expenses | 6,557 | 35,798 | 60,886 | -41.2% |
| Total Expenses Supported by General Giving | 26,302 | 145,083 | 158,493 | -8.5% |
| Excess/Shortfall from General Offerings | 8,456 | 40,085 | (12,620) | -417.6% |
| Other Income and Expenses | | | | |
| Restricted Offerings Income | 1,619 | 4,307 | 17,145 | -74.9% |
| Youth Expense Net of Fundraising | (2,669) | (8,415) | (552) | 1424.5% |
| Assets and Debts ** | | | | |
| Checking & Savings | | | | |
| General Operating Funds | 60,306 | 60,306 | 23,318 | 158.6% |
| Endowment Fund | 135,963 | 135,963 | 121,298 | 12.1% |
| Restricted Funds | 20,381 | 20,381 | 27,765 | -26.6% |
| Property Improvement Fund | 1,676 | 9,499 | 3,000 | 216.6% |
| Total Cash and Savings | 218,237 | 218,237 | 175,381 | 24.4% |
| Building, Furniture, etc | 2,132,749 | 2,132,749 | 2,130,113 | 0.1% |
| Building Loan | 6,820 | 6,820 | 17,695 | -159.5% |

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ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

The ORLC Endowment Fund is managed and held with and in good standing with the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust-Fund A and utilizes the ELCA Fund's professional and outside investment services.

Endowment Fund Application Forms are available in the church office. Grant Cycle will close **June 30, 2026**. The endowment committee will review and notify each applicant of the funding decision.

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Beginning Value 9/30/2025 | \$ 129,204 |
| Change in Market Value | \$ 7,079 |
| Total Endowment | \$ 136,283 |
| Undesignated Gift Fund | \$ 5,578 |

Grants:

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Grant: Children of Joy | <u>\$ 3,000</u> |
|------------------------|-----------------|

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Approved Grants 2026 | <u>\$ 3,000</u> |
|----------------------|-----------------|

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Ending Value 2/28/2026 | <u>\$ 136,283</u> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|

*Respectfully submitted,
Greg Lea, Chairman
Chelsie Troth, Secretary
Deb Eck, Treasurer*

RAINY DAY FUND REPORT

Each year as we write this report; it may seem to the reader that the same information is reported to the congregation. Please know the need is great and we have made a difference in so many lives within our community. The ORLC congregation is a vital link to the Rainy Day Fund (RDF); the members of this congregation make financial assistance possible through their continued support and generous donations.

Our main policy has changed recently. Just a friendly reminder; there is criteria that must be met prior to each and every request for assistance to be funded. Large requests for funds have been on the rise and to remain sustainable we ask that people calling for assistance be working with another organization. Once that is established the committee can review the request further and possibly commit to aid. We have also had to lengthen the time between assists. These decisions were made with careful consideration for keeping the program healthy. This also allows us to keep helping many people facing hard times in our community.

One thing you can be sure of the people we help are *so very appreciative*...no one plans to be in a desperate situation, we don't judge choices made in the past...***our (ORLC) mission is to shine light on their future!*** If it wasn't for the charitable organizations throughout the county, especially our community and congregation it would be impossible to fund the requests. We must remember each request is coming from a ***person or family in need and is kept confidential amongst the team.***

Volunteers Needed:

The Rainy Day Committee has been in operation for about 10 years now. Thank you to Lyndon Haugestun, Mary Jo Mettler and Penny Hudlow for your faithful service to this program. We would like to invite new members to the team this year and encourage you to reach out to Pastor John if you have a strong pull to community service.

Currently the Rainy Day Committee is on hiatus until new members can be found. This only affects the larger requests at this time. The office continues to support the community with gas, food and clothing voucher assistance.

Questions and/or concerns regarding the RDF may be directed to a RDF committee member or church accountant.

The period of Oct 1, 2025 thru Feb 28, 2026

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Beginning Balance | \$ 3,123 |
| Mission Tithes | \$ 1,459 |
| Congregational donations | \$ 8,591 |

Total tithes & donations this period: \$10,050

Funds Disseminated

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Rainy Day Assistance | \$ 4,204 |
|----------------------|----------|

Current Fund Balance **\$ 8,969**

*Respectfully submitted,
Rainy Day Committee*

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Preschool-6th grade

Sunday School- This past year, Sunday School has been a meaningful time of growth and learning for the kids, thanks to the dedication of Kathy Jahnz and Lori Rydberg. Their faithfulness, consistency, and genuine care for each child have created a welcoming space where kids feel encouraged to learn and grow in their faith. Through their teaching, patience, and positive example, they continue to inspire a deeper understanding of God's word and a love for learning about it. We are so grateful for Kathy and Lori's commitment and for the congregation's support that makes this ministry possible.

Kids of the Kingdom- This past year has been such a joy, with 20–30 kids gathering each week to learn, grow, and build community together. Throughout the year, the kids explored meaningful Bible stories such as the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, the 7 Days of Creation, the Lost Sheep, David and Goliath, Jesus feeding the 5,000, and many more. It has been amazing to see their engagement, curiosity, and willingness to share their thoughts as they connect these lessons to their own lives. They continue to show kindness to one another, ask thoughtful questions, and grow in both their faith and confidence each week. A big thank you to Sue Osterdyk and Pam Pangerl for volunteering as extra assistance.

Acolyte Program- Sept-May we ask 5-9th graders to participate in Sunday service by lighting the candles. We host a training session for the incoming 5th graders in September to show them what is to be done and the importance of their job as an acolyte. Thank you to all the families who have participated.

Bible Sunday- We had many 3rd graders received their first study bibles in September! Such a treat to see the Word in so many little hands. The week before Bible Sunday they participated in a Bible class with Pastor John to have a conversation about this very special book.

Christmas Program & Happy Birthday Jesus Party- Decembers program was such fun with many youth involved taking on many parts and showing their true Christmas spirit in what the season is about. After the program we enjoyed crafts, games and treats during our Happy Birthday Jesus party.

First Communion Class- We had 11 very excited 5th graders take the first communion class in March. Pastor John gave a presentation on communion and its importance to our faith, I provided a craft and baked bread, and they finished the evening with a taste of the communion elements.

Vacation Bible School- Mark your calendars! VBS will be July 13-17th this summer with the McAvoy family leading us in what is always a very busy and exciting week at ORLC. Registration for attending and volunteers will be available at a closer date.

THANK YOU- A BIG thank you to the congregation for your continued support, prayers, and encouragement. Your investment in these kids makes these ministries truly impactful and possible.

Submitted by Grace Jahnz

YOUTH MINISTRY

7-12th grade

Affirmation of Baptism: It took place in October. Nine students stood up to affirm their baptism. Congratulations Garitty Hansen, Daisy Brouwer, Havannah Brush-Driscoll, Jocelyn Lorsung, Evan Olson, Lilly Greene, Ella Boucha, Lauryn Jahnz and Lexie Rydberg.

Monthly Events: Over the last 6 months we have spent time growing in our fellowship with some fun events. We ate together and discussed our weeks at Food and Fellowship. We ventured to Feed My Starving Children with 12 youth from 6th-12th grade to package food and on the way home spent the day at Pine Haven where we hid messages and Bible verses around the farm. We also created lanterns and dropped them on doorsteps.

Confirmation: We meet throughout the year on Wednesday nights. We have around 25 kids attending and this year we have spent time learning about the Apostles Creed and The Lord's Prayer. In December we created service projects that we donated to different groups in our community. Thank you to our confirmation guides Kathy Jahnz, Elle Nuhl, Cindy Schmidt and Joe Mishler. Thank you to the families who have hosted a night of dinner for our programming this year.

Jr and Sr High Lock In: In October we hosted a mini lock in. We had over 40 kids who attended. We focused on growing in Fellowship with youth from ORLC as well as other churches in our area. We created tie blankets, prayed and worshiped together and played some games. Thank you to our volunteers for the evening and the local businesses that supplied food for the evening.

Senior High Youth Group meets weekly on Wednesday nights from 7:30-9! This year we have been focusing on the individual books of the Bible and how they relate to teenage life and the lessons we can learn. We have been working through Genesis and John. We have about 10 kids who regularly attend.

Mission Trip: In preparation for the upcoming mission trip, we completed three nights of soups and sandwiches during lent, had a silent auction, sold pizzas, popcorn and butter braids. Thank you to everyone who helped make these fundraisers successful. We will be headed to Kansas City in July.

Mandie Mishler

ORLC PROPERTY REPORT (November 2025-March 2026)

November:

Signs and fake cameras installed on NW side of building at the low end of the roof.: Dale Mathisen

14, 19, 26th: Work on the bell tower lighting system: Mark Madison & Jeff Espeseth

January: None

February: None

March:

Hand washing sink in main kitchen repaired. -John Oare

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- It has been a quiet time for building repairs. Thank the Lord!
 - The roof over the Sunday School room was a big job last year and fixed many of the issues we were having with that side of the building.
 - Dale's Heating will be coming for their Spring check to ensure our A/C units are ready for the change in temperature.
 - We are looking forward to Spring grounds work. If you are interested in helping with mowing the Church lawn please get in touch with Dale Mathisen or Dave Mettler. If you are interested in assisting with the gardens and weeding reach out to Merrilee Eberhart.

We appreciate all the work our congregation does each and every day, all year long in keeping the building and grounds in tip top shape.

Rod Williamson & Eric Wicktor; Property Team

Becca Groe; keeper of the records. Please let Becca know of any property repairs so they can be noted.

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE

'Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.' Psalm 95:6

The Worship and Music Committee meets in the Family Room, every second Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.

Members include Lois Bengtson and Doug Berglund (co-chairs), Glenna Reiersen, Diane Lombard, Lynne Zack, Christy Koch, Kris Gross, Lynda Woulfe and Becky Berglund (altar guild), Caron Peters and Jen Krinke (resource, but unable to attend meetings), and Pastor John.

The focus is to bring meaning to our worship in all areas of the church.

The committee oversees the radio and YouTube broadcasts, readers, communion helpers, beautifying the altar, and music.

We are grateful for our three music teams Radical Men, Spirit Alive, and Prayer Works, which alternate during each month providing contemporary songs for the service. Glenna, provides more liturgical music on the organ and coordinates special music. Third Sunday communion is a special morning worship thanks to Jen Krinke, Glenna and Pastor leading Marty Haugen's "Now The Feast and Celebration".

The choir, under the direction of Jen Krinke uplifted the congregation with beautiful voices and music from September to December this past fall. Everyone is welcome to lift a joyful noise and join the choir! Usual meeting time is Wednesday evenings at 7pm with one Sunday a month performance.

Thank you to our Sunday School children, under the direction of Kathy Jahnz, Lori Ryberg and assistants, for bringing their voices in song to several services during the year.

We are also grateful to those bringing their gift of music and song during the offering time of worship.

In January, we were blessed with the annual visit by Teen Challenge, offering their voices in praise and testimony.

Thank you to those providing the technical part of worship, Nathaniel, Dell, Gary, Will, Diane, Elaine, John and Steve. If you are interested in helping provide sound and streaming support please reach out to Diane Lombard to be added to the rotation. Training and guidance are available!

All are welcome to join us at a meeting or send ideas to anyone on the committee.

*Respectfully submitted,
Lynne Zack*

WOMEN OF THE ELCA (April 2024-March 2025)

Monthly meeting on the second Tuesday of the month, currently at 4:30pm. All women of the Church welcome to attend to discuss business and events. New ideas welcome!

Recruitment:

Currently the WELCA board is need of:

Roles to be filled: Co-chair with Carolyn Tuckner

Funeral Chair: Carolyn Tuckner and Elaine Garaghty are co-chairs of this committee with Sue Swanson calling volunteers for each event. If you would like to be a part of this committee or volunteer please connect with one of these ladies to see how you can be of help.

S'mores & More - Girls Night Out 2025: Held Sunday, August 24...it was a beautiful night outside enjoying a fire along with smores and great conversation. We did a string art project on the lawn, filled 100 school kits for Lutheran World Relief and took some time to slow down and color. Thank you to all those who were able to pop by for our 3rd annual camp fire night.

Rummage Sale 2025: We had a very successful fall rummage sale and would like to thank the men's group for table set-up as well as the rummage sale committee for all their hard work in planning and organizing. Thank you to all those who brought donations and to all who stopped by for a shopping experience.

Christmas Boutique 2025: We had a wonderful event with lots of vendors as well as a great showing by the community! If interested in being a vendor be on the lookout for information going out in August. Welca provided lunch for all vendors and hosted a Rada table, bake sale, winter outdoor pots and the quilters sold 4 Christmas themed quilts.

Cookbook Cookout 2026: Three years running and we have so much fun at this event! Lots of delicious recipes were shared and Becca made a mini book of recipes for anyone interested in taking one home. Each recipe needs to come from a church cookbook as we try those tried, true and sometimes odd recipes.

Financials: Martha Larson continues to fill the financial role for the group and we are so appreciative. Financials are prepared each month and discussed at the monthly meeting. All money raised by Welca events is distributed to Church needs, Church youth programs and/or community/worldly needs that are brought to the group's attention. Yearly audits are done by the Church audit team and were completed in Feb of 2026

*Submitted by
Becca Groe*

HERITAGE COMMITTEE (May 2025 - April 2026)

Members: Jane Carlson, Barbara Christensen, Elaine Garaghty, Kris Gross, Diane Teich. Council Liaison: Kathy Lentz

Heritage Committee Meetings: We will be meeting one weekday each quarter at ORLC. Occasionally, additional meetings may be needed (i.e. Planning Heritage Sunday). The day and time of meetings is determined by Committee Members.

We welcome new members: You need not be a long-time member of ORLC. Lots of ORLC history can be found in our files and by talking to other members.

We welcome new memories and stories: Do you have a favorite story, memory or photo of ORLC you would like to share? Contact a Heritage Committee member.

*The memories we collect and give
Brighten our days as long as we live.
Julie Sneyd*

Below are tasks we have completed in the past year. Some are ongoing tasks and activities.

- Continued to document and file archival information as it became known and available from members, community newspapers and church activities.
- Provided articles for ORLC's monthly newsletter, *Shining God's Light*,
- Provided new items for History Cabinet.
- Noted Pastor Recognition Month in October, 2025.
- Assisted with the planning of October 2025's Heritage Sunday and now the 2026 Heritage Sunday.
- Sorted and filed photos of ORLC activities.
- Continued work on ORLC History Booklet.
- Honored the work of the Pine Grove, Milburn and Our Redeemer women and men through the years.
- Researched and documented the history of the early altar, now in the Fellowship Hall.

Prepared by:

Barbara Christensen, Committee Chair

HEALING PRAYER TEAM 2025-26

Mission: Helping others experience God's power through praying and teaching.

Membership:

Currently 6 active members, any are welcomed to join the team. Meetings are 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM. Pray requests are held confidential.

Activities sponsored by the HPT:

- Weekly prayer in the bulletin for use during home prayer.
- Healing Prayer Service, June 29, 2025, Grief and Trauma, faith story by Susan Morris.
- Healing Prayer Service, August 31, 2025, Hiding Place and Deliverance, faith story by .
- Healing Prayer Service, November 30, 2025, Listen, Prepare, Repent, faith story, Ella Boucha.
- Introduction to Advent, temple talk with weekly prayer guide provided for home worship.
- Blue Christmas service, December 18, 2025, In the bleak mid-winter. Lighting of remembrance candles and personal prayer with anointing.
- Shining God's Light, weekly scripture initiative during Lent.
- Palm Sunday anointing for healing, March 29, 2026, faith story Kris Gross, Red Thread.

On going ministry offered to any and all upon request:

- Written prayer requests gathered from the prayer cross weekly, Sunday morning.
- Texting prayer chain – any may text 651-236-0511 with an immediate prayer request. This will be passed on to others who will offer a petition regarding this need upon receipt. These requests are confidential.
- Altar ministry – prayer partners offered after worship for personal concerns.
- Soaking prayer sessions – upon request individuals (general facing life altering circumstances) may participate in an extended prayer sessions with 3 or more Prayer Team members. The person will talk about the situation and the team will pray with the individual. The goal is to know “Emmanuel, God with us” meaning how will Christ join with the individual to face the life circumstance in the Power of God. There may be repeated prayer sessions as needed. Prayer sessions are held in confidence.
- Weekly prayer for ORLC – Sunday morning one hour prior to worship service. Any are welcome to join in prayer in the Family Room. This is a time to prayer for concerns in the ORLC community and beyond.

Submitted by:

Lynn Drewa and other team members

PINE CITY BACKPACK FOOD PROGRAM

Feed a child grow a community.

March 2026

This is the TWELFTH year that the Backpack Food Program has been providing food to Pine City students are identified as not having enough food over the weekend and school breaks. From September 2025 through March 2026, a staggering total of just under 1475 bags have already been delivered. These mid-year numbers exceed last years, at this time by 175 bags with 9 weeks remaining.

Cash donations and food donations remain fairly stable, thanks to support from Our Redeemer members as well as members from Immaculate Conception church and various Pine City businesses and organizations including the Lions, Salvation Army, New Horizons Thrift Store, Our Redeemer's Mustard Seed Men Bible Study group and the Initiative Foundation. As a result, the state of the Backpack Food Program continues to be financially strong.

This past Christmas season the storage area for the program moved from the loft at Our Redeemer to a main floor classroom giving us much needed space for better organization. We have been blessed with wonderful volunteers from Pine City PTO, VFW Auxiliary, Pine City National Honor Society, Our Redeemer Youth Groups with Mandie Mishler and Grace Jahnz, Kathy Jahnz Daycare and Jeff Jahnz's Outdoor Services for their twice a year Bake Sale events. Our Delivery Drivers: Dave and Lisa Johnson, Dale Mathisen, Wayne Hansmann, John Oare, Mary Anderson and congregational members are ready and able to get the food to the schools. It is because of you all, we are living up to our mission to feed a child and build a community!

In August of 2025 we, Christy Koch and Sue Beckstrand, became co-coordinators of the Backpack Program and are grateful for those who established it and have upheld it's mission. We ask you to continue to support with food, monetary donations and your prayers.

Christy Koch and Sue Beckstrand

CHILDREN OF JOY PRESCHOOL

Creating Joy in Learning

Thank you for your continued support of Children of Joy Preschool! Currently we have 12 students enrolled in the program and have been able to offer 1 partial scholarship to a student in need this year. Thank you to all those who support our scholarship program.

Classroom:

Our classroom is a never ending buzz of fun, activity and learning. Throughout this school year we have studied topics such as, kindness, community helpers, polar animals and dinosaurs...just to name a few! We also celebrate numerous holidays with special books and activities. We love to display the kids art work so don't be shy and take a walk down our hallway and see what they have been up too.

Our kids love a good science experiment, reading together as a class, answering the question of the day and taking walks around the church for outdoor exploration. We routinely replace our play stations and dramatic play areas for lots of fresh and new play experiences. Our dramatic play area has been many things this year including a pizza place, a house, coffee shop and bakery!

Program News:

We have an open house scheduled for April for the community to come in and check us out. We have many different options, including before and after-care as well as scholarship availability if extra help is requested financially. Be on the lookout for further information. We are excited to see you and welcome you to the program!

Each school year we host two conferences to meet with parents and discuss their children's progress. This is such a great way to connect and make sure we are providing everything our kids need at school.

We are planning on having summer camps again. They will be 3 mornings a month for June, July, and August. Dates are yet to be determined. Summer camp is a perfect chance to try out preschool if you're wondering how your child or grandchild would like it. It is for any child who is potty trained and age 3 or older.

Fundraising:

In the fall of 2025 we hosted our first Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser. We look forward to making this an annual event. This February we did our second fundraiser, the Move-a-thon. The kids had an exciting evening of movement while completing a fun obstacle course with an Olympic theme. We also participated in 2 Lenten soup suppers at ORLC. We appreciate the Church members who supported those endeavors. Money raised will be put into our general fund at this time to be used for future program needs.

Board News:

We continue to meet once a month on the first Monday to connect with our teaching staff about the program, grants etc.

We welcomed Coleman Lombard and Dale Mathisen to the board this year.

We would like to thank the ORLC Endowment Committee for voting yes on our submission as well as the ORLC W/ELCA group for supporting the program with a monetary donation during our 2025/26 school year.

We continue to bring our name to the community by participating in many community events, often during the summer months.

We remain abundantly blessed with Casey Tyberg and Rosalie Aschemann as our staff as well as all our board members who volunteer their time to make this program successful. Please keep our students, their families, our staff and board in your prayers and thank you for walking with us as we serve our community!

Becca Groe

Children of Joy Board Member

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