

**SPRING 2022
SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING**



**COUNCIL ELECTION
PROGRAM SUMMARIES
Of
OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

**Meeting to be held on
April 24, 2022
Immediately following the worship service.**

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Spring Semi-Annual Meeting
Agenda
Sunday, April 24, 2022

Opening prayer

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Confirm a quorum is present**
- 3. Nominating Committee –**
 - Slate of candidates for council seats: Wayne Hansmann, William Woulfe, Doug Berglund, and Lynn Zack
 - Nominations from the floor
- 4. Elections**
 - Four council seats are open for election. Terms expiring: Kristen Gross, Wayne Hansmann, John Schille, and Brent Weiss.
- 5. Review and approval of the minutes from the Fall 2021 semi-annual meeting**
- 6. Reports**
 - a. Pastor(s) and other called staff
 - b. President and other Members of Congregation Council
 - c. Financial income and expense reports
 - d. Other committees, task forces, and small group reports
- 7. Proposed Resolutions**

Resolution: The Church Council moves to seek approval in selling the vacant lot north of the parking lot. The land needs to be appraised by a minimum of two realtors to establish a fair market sale value. The proceeds from the sale of the lot will be used to improve or repair the parking lot. If excess funds are gained from the sale, these funds may be used for carpet replacement in the fellowship hall and youth room.

Resolution: That the church council be given the authority to approve the minutes of the 2022 Spring Semi-Annual Meeting.

Resolution: That we recognize our church staff: Leigha Lange, Todd Cummings, Rebecca Groe, Glenna Reiersen, Steve Schmidt, Doug Pieper, Nathaniel Gross and Pastor John.

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.

Resolution: That we recognize Kristen Gross, John Schille, Brent Weiss and Wayne Hansmann, whose terms have expired, for their service on Council.

- 8. Election results**
- 9. Adjournment**
- 10. Closing prayer**

Church Council Members:

President: Kris Gross / Vice President: Ashley Espeseth

Treasurer: Greg Lea / Secretary & Worship & Music: Diane Lombard

Administration & Facility: Wayne Hansmann, Brent Weiss, John Schille

Faith Formation & Education: Rich Elliot, Ashley Espeseth

Congregational Care: Gail Mattison / Congregational Life: Kyle Nascene, Eric Wicktor

Mission & Outreach: Erin Anderson

ORLC 2021 Fall Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, November 14, 2021

The ORLC Fall Congregational meeting was called to order by President Kris Gross at 10:12am. Pastor John Stiles opened with prayer.

Ashley Espeseth counted 73 members present. President Kris Gross announced we had a quorum.

Pastor John Stiles made a motion to add committee reports to the agenda after financial reports and seconded by Lynn Drewa. Motion carried. Motion made by Lyndon Hagestuen to accept the amended agenda and seconded by Brent Jahnz. Motion carried.

A copy of the approved Spring Semi-Annual congregational meeting minutes is found in the Fall Semi-Annual booklet for review. Diane Lombard asked if verbal review was wanted/needed or if anyone had any questions. No verbal review needed and no questions asked.

Lois Bengston reported on the nomination committee and reviewed the ballot passed out:

Endowment Committee one open position for three year term

Mary Jo Mettler

Nominating Committee four open slots

Lois Bengston, Vicki Pieper, Lyndon Hagestuen, John Oare

Synod Assembly: Voting Member

Carolyn Tuckner and Carole Pederson

Alternates:

Ashley & Andrew Espeseth

President Kris Gross opened up motions from the floor for the Endowment Committee - none, Nominating Committee - none, and for the Synod Assembly - none. Motion to accept the unanimous ballot was made by Lynn Drewa and seconded by Pam Jambeck. Motion carried.

Financial Reports: Greg Lea, Steve Schmidt and Carol VanderHorck

Greg Lea reported ORLC is in a good position financially after an interesting fiscal year with COVID. Steve Schmidt reviewed the Key Financial Statistics Comparison report and opened up for any questions.

Greg and Steve present the budget:

Lynn Drewa asked if the sound system supervisor position was in the budget.

The 2022 budget line item #5850-10 under worship has a budget of \$1,500.

Bonnie Menigo asked about the plan of use for the healthy fund balance we currently have.

There are several large projects and council is prioritizing the order of importance and looking at ways to use the funds and still leave funds for future use. The 2022 budget line item #5014-01 was increased to \$1000.00 to help with budgeting for the upkeep of the church property.

Glenn Westing asked if the property improvement was the same as the Rainy Day Fund.

No, these are two separate line items: the property improvement is for ORLC building and grounds and the Rainy Day fund is to help people in the community.

Brent Jahnz made a motion to accept the proposed budget and was seconded by Bonnie Menigo. Motion carried.

Carol VanderHorck reported that the audit committee does a thorough review of the financial records and appreciates the good record keeping by all the committees. The process usually takes 2-3 hours in part for all the work that Steve Schmidt and Becca Groe do to get everything together that the audit committee needs. Thank you!

Bonnie Sparling and Bonnie Menigo reported on the history and future of the Backpack program. The program started in 2015 with two bags a week and currently does 28 bags a week. The program continued to deliver even with COVID presenting challenges. Jenah Newman will be taking over the lead of the program.

President Report:

Kris Gross reported on two recent articles she had read - one describing everything that is wrong with the church and the other describing everything that is right with the church. Let's look at what is right with the church and go from there. Kris Gross feels blessed for being part of a small church and community for the understanding and support that comes with it. Thank You!

Staff Reports:

Leigha Lange shared her appreciation of the support and help she receives from parents and volunteers. She commented that it takes all of us to work together. This past year was great and she is excited for what is to come.

Pastor John Stiles wanted to thank the council, the president, the staff and members. He is grateful for the members ~ giving, prayers and support. He loves and is proud to be the pastor of ORLC. THANK YOU!!

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Wayne Hansmann and seconded by Dell Gross. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 10:41.

*Submitted by
Diane Lombard, Secretary*

Semi-Annual Report
Pastor John Stiles / April 24th, 2022

“We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ... you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you...” ~1Thessalonians 1:1-8

I have been honored, this past year, to witness the word of the Lord “sounding forth” from each one of you. This year we celebrated the 75th anniversary of our congregation. Our heritage committee led the way in welcoming back former pastors, sharing the memories of the founding of this faith community, and looking forward to the future and what the next 75 years will bring!

We also witnessed the return of many of the ministries that had been put on hold due to Covid. A few examples include “*God’s Work, Our Hands*” Sunday with many people volunteering in the community and at church! The return of our annual rummage sale; the return of our Thanksgiving Community Dinner; and our mid-week Lenten services which were held in person once again.

Add to all of that the ongoing work of our other vital ministries, including the Healing Prayer Team, Quilters, Environmental Arts, BeFriends, Backpack Program, Property Team, Youth & Children, Finance Team, Bible studies, Worship & Music, Endowment Team, Picnic Church, a newly-formed Creation Care Team and a whole host of other ministries, and you can see how Our Redeemer Lutheran Church is definitely meeting a need in the community in more ways than one! Plus, you were there for me when I had surgery for prostate cancer with prayers that sustained me on the road to recovery.

So, thanks and praise are in order. Thanks for who YOU are as a member of this church reading this report... and thanks for all you DO! It really does make a difference, in ways great and small.

I also want to thank our church staff for another year of achievements and milestones. They are really growing into a cohesive team and it shows. To Glenna Reiersen, Leigha Lange, Becca Groe, Todd Cummings, Doug Pieper and Steve Schmidt I say THANK YOU for making this a place where we collaborate to carry out God’s work in new and creative ways! You are being an example to others in this community of what it means to follow Jesus.

Many thanks to our church council, especially to those council members whose terms are up this year: Kris Gross, Brent Weiss and John Schille. Simply put, without your leadership, care and commitment we wouldn’t be able to do what we do in this place. Those who serve on church council make sure we are seeing “the big picture” and staying on track with fulfilling our mission to ***shine God’s light in the darkness, bring healing where there is hurt, and hope where there is despair.***

We really DO give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers. Thank you!

Grace and peace to you,
Pastor John Stiles



2021 Statistics: baptisms (5), weddings (0), Member funerals (7) Nonmembers funerals (4), confirmed (9), new members received (8), Avg. weekly worship attendance On-site (98) Online (36).

President's Report

2022 Semi-Annual Spring Report

During my term on council, one of our projects has been working on gathering together and developing our written policies and procedures. The church office now has a binder with ORLC policies and procedures for anyone interested in viewing. These are working documents and subject to change as needed. This process has just begun, as it seems this process takes time. It is not just a task for council members. If you are interested in helping with this project, please inform the church office.

Becca and Diane Lombard have been very busy with reviewing and updating our membership data base. This has been a huge project with much more work to be done. Please be patient with this process. At some point, before all information is finalized, the office may need to contact you for updates in the information or your status in the church. If you have information to correct, you may contact the church office to relay that information.

It has been an honor and a blessing to be able to serve as your Church Council President the past two years. My terms as president and council member expire as of the spring meeting. Although I am eligible to run for a second term on council, I felt that it is important to give others an opportunity to serve. This allows for even more creative ideas on how to do church and share in the ministry of the gospel that God is calling Our Redeemer to do.

I recently read that each Christian has been given a calling. We don't need to wonder our purpose in life. It is plainly stated in Matthew 28:18-20 that we are to "Go and make disciples". How are you doing individually in sharing Christ? How are we doing as a church community? Am I growing in my relationship with Jesus and is ORLC fostering an environment for growth in the gospel? This is an ongoing inquiry that doesn't stop once we have programs in place. Nor are we too young or too old to inquire of the Lord as to what he wants to do in and through us. It is a question to ask on a continual basis as we never will fully arrive. I encourage you to evaluate what you are doing within the church and outside of church life in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. I look forward to continuing in sharing ministry with you here at ORLC. And let us keep looking to Jesus, lifting Him up in all things we do here at ORLC and in our individual lives.

Together in Christ,

Kristen Gross

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Key Financial Statistics Comparison Report
YTD and Month Ending
March 31, 2022

	YTD 2022	YTD 2021	% Change
Income and Expenses **			
General Offering Income	167,629	146,065	14.8%
Other General Operating Income	9,140	9,236	-1.0%
Total Available for Expense Payment(General Operating)	176,769	155,301	13.8%
Compensation Expenses	96,352	82,681	16.5%
Missions Support Expense	18,216	16,522	10.3%
Other General Operating Expenses	44,081	40,829	8.0%
Total Expenses Supported by General Giving	158,649	140,032	13.3%
Excess/Shortfall from General Offerings	18,120	15,269	18.7%
Other Income and Expenses			
Restricted Offerings Income	3,214	8,473	-62.1%
Youth Expense Net of Fundraising	1,183	4	NA
Assets and Debts **			
Checking & Savings			
General Operating Funds	79,359	53,905	47.2%
Endowment Fund	125,735	80,521	56.2%
Restricted Funds	45,991	33,043	39.2%
Property Improvement Fund	9,680	5,400	79.3%
Total Cash and Savings	260,765	172,869	50.8%
Building, Furniture, etc	1,986,227	1,980,823	0.3%

	<u>Mar 31, 22</u>	<u>Mar 31, 21</u>
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
1000 - Cash Accounts		
999-00 - Frandsen Bank and Trust		
1000-00 - General Operating Account	79,359	53,905
1000-96 - Restricted Funds		
1000-01 - Grant Availability Fund	8,104	0
1000-22 - Designated Heritage Fund	2,388	110
1000-25 - Faith Boxes Fund	247	247
1000-46 - Norm Opheim Scholarship Fund	2,139	1,890
1000-50 - Music Fund	389	369
1000-53 - Designated Property & Grounds		
1000-54 - Designated Sound System Fund	52	52
1000-55 - Property & Grounds Projects	324	88
1000-57 - Designated Carpet Fund	1,375	1,225
1000-59 - Designated Garden/Flower Fund	2,200	2,200
1000-61 - Designated Youth Room Updates	354	354
1000-64 - Leone Ledin Lighting Fund	0	7,053
1000-66 - Flag Expense Fund	374	468
1100-91 - Property Improve. Reserve Fund	9,680	5,400
Total 1000-53 - Designated Property & Grounds	14,358	16,840
1000-70 - Undesignated Memorial/Gift Fund	8,034	6,094
1000-74 - Rainy Day Missions Fund	11,403	6,057
1000-75 - Designated Youth Fund	1,541	1,541
1000-76 - Campership Award Fund	3,599	3,357
1000-77 - Lutherpoint Campership Fund	3,468	1,938
Total 1000-96 - Restricted Funds	55,671	38,443
Total 999-00 - Frandsen Bank and Trust	135,030	92,348
Total 1000 - Cash Accounts	135,030	92,348
1100-14 - Our Redeemer Lutheran Endowment		
1100-12 - Endowment Investment Fund	125,735	80,521
Total 1100-14 - Our Redeemer Lutheran Endowment	125,735	80,521
Total Checking/Savings	260,765	172,869
Total Current Assets	260,765	172,869
Fixed Assets	1,986,227	1,980,823
TOTAL ASSETS	2,246,992	2,153,692
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities	2,105	9,627
Equity	2,244,886	2,144,065
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	2,246,992	2,153,692

**Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Budget Comparison
March 31, 2022**

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
	<u>YTD March '22</u>	<u>YTD March '22</u>	<u>2022</u>
Budgetary Expenses			
 Compensation Expenses			
Total 5000-00 - Compensation Expense	96,351	101,673	203,347
5014-01 - Property Improvement Reserve	6,000	6,000	12,000
5110-00 - Accompanist	3,000	3,600	7,200
5219-00 - Missions Support	16,417	16,250	32,500
5229-00 - Accounting Fees	7,700	7,750	15,500
5240-00 - Conference/Workshop	660	500	1,000
5240-50 - Healing Team Expenses	342	100	200
5241-00 - Special Event Expense	211	250	500
Total	8,913	8,600	17,200
Insurance			
Total 5247-00 - Insurance	4,102	4,250	8,500
5250-00 - Continuing Education-Support Staff	310	200	400
5273-00 - Adult Ministry	-	75	150
5224-06 - Life Blood Re-entry Meetings		50	100
Total 5371-00 - Flower Expenditures	(651)	50	100
Church Operating Expenses			
5440-00 - Kitchen & Cleaning Supplies	701	1,000	2,000
Office Expense			
Total 5450-00 - Office Expense	3,462	4,225	8,450
5450-10 Furniture and Equipment		100	200
5450-20 - Postage Expense	906	1,000	2,000
5600-00 - Repairs/Maintenance	1,350	3,250	6,500

**Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Budget Comparison
March 31, 2022**

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
	<u>YTD March '22</u>	<u>YTD March '22</u>	<u>2022</u>
5600-10 History/Archivist Expense	725	500	1,000
5600-12 . Environmental Arts	272	750	1,500
5724-00 . Grounds Maintenance	3,035	2,250	4,500
5730-00 . Church Automobile Expense	-	250	500
5750-00 . Utilities Expense	8,603	7,000	14,000
Total 5410-00 . Church Operating Expenses	19,054	20,325	40,650
5700-00 . Stewardship/Finance	54	75	150
5850-00 . Worship/Music Expense	1,581	2,260	4,520
5850-09 Altar Guild	734	650	1,300
5850-20 Radio Sponsorship Expense	225		
5850-10 Sound Supervisor	375	750	1,500
Total	2,915	3,660	7,320
Youth Expenses			
Total 5900-00 . Youth Exp.	1,182	5,150	10,300
Total Budgetary Expenses	157,647	169,958	339,917
Operating Income Needed to Cover Budget Expenses	167,629	169,958	339,917

Pastoral Compensation Note: at this time Pastor Stiles has chosen not to utilize healthcare coverage as provided under synod guidelines as he is provided coverage through his wife's family plan by her employer. The saving for ORLC is \$3,115 per month or \$37,380 per year.

**OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND**

Semi-Annual Financial Report

The Endowment Committee met Monday, March 14, 2022
Present: Endowment Committee members, Kris Gross Council President

Old Business:

Review the current Grant Cycle/grant application dates

Recipients of the Grant Application Process:

2021:

ORLC Youth Mission Trip

ORLC Heritage Committee for the ORLC 75th Anniversary

2022:

A Place for You—The board is seeking a strategic planner to maximize the shelter's effectiveness.

Review/Discuss/Edit Mission Endowment Fund Bylaws

Reviewed/edited Mission Endowment Fund Bylaws:

draft bylaws are available in the church office and will become final upon reviewal/approval by the church council.

Please note: Grant applications and award letters are available for review in the church office.

Endowment Fund Application Form from the church office. The application must be completed by June 30, 2022. The endowment committee will review and notify each applicant their decision.

***The initial investment to the Fund occurred on
May 19, 2019, and valued as follows:***

Beginning Principal Balance	\$ 44,000
Additional Principal	
Investments	\$ 59,797
Change in Market Value	\$ 25,138
Grant Distribution	\$ 3,200

Current Fund Value 2/28/22 \$125,735

*The ORELC Fund is managed and held with the
ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust-Fund A and
utilizes the ELCA Fund's professional and outside
investment services.*

*Respectfully submitted,
Dan Blake, President
Penny Hudlow, Secretary
Mary Jo Mettler Treasurer*

OUR REDEEMER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (ORELC)
RAINY DAY FUND
825 Golf Avenue SW, Pine City, Minnesota

The ORELC congregation is a vital link to the Rainy Day Fund (RDF); we want to say thank you for your ongoing support and generous donations. And we want to inform you of the funds financial record.

The following information remains the same from last year's report: The RDF provides for on demand vouchers written by office personnel up to \$40 (gas and/or groceries). Any requests for; shut off notices, rent, car repairs, etc. are forwarded to the RDF committee for consideration. The RDF committee takes each request for assistance very seriously and please know each **request is confidential**. We all know there's a need in our community for assistance, however, financially the RDF was not prepared to assist with large requests, we did refer to other charitable organizations, however, some people fell through the cracks, waiting for a return call or not having the means to get to the organization if required.

The committee continues to work with in collaboration with the Salvation Army (SA). The SA had the funds to disseminate for Pine County (from Christmas Bell Ringers, etc.). Please note: if the SA funds are not disseminated the dollars are returned to the SA office and general fund.

Just a friendly reminder; there is criteria that must be met prior to **each and every request** for assistance to be funded. This ensures the future sustainability of our RDF.

Please also ponder if Pine County designated SA funds are not disseminated in the calendar year, the remainder is returned to the central SA office in a general fund. Thus, a missed opportunity to extend community assistance.

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

Rainy Day Fund

the period of October 1, 2021 thru March 31, 2022

Mission Tithes	\$ 1,868
Congregational donations	\$ 4,329
Total this period:	\$ 6,197

Funds Disseminated

Rent, electric, heating assistance	\$ 2,434
Sprouts & Mini Mart Vouchers	\$ 2,098
Total this period:	\$ 4,532

Current Fund Balance	\$11,403
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Respectfully submitted,
Lyndon Hagestuen
Penny Hudlow
Mary Jo Mettler

The food insecurity in our community is real, individuals and families fall behind in rent, heating and electric bills. Some requests are more than or do not fit the ORLC RDF mission and must be forwarded to Lakes & Pines and/or the Salvation Army for assistance.

The ORLC congregation can be proud of the community assistance provided!

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Semi-Annual Meeting Report

This past year has been filled with challenges and opportunities. We tried new programming, improved old programming, and we persevered on. Throughout the last year we went to Boston MA to serve the community, gathered together for Sunday School, held Vacation Bible School, sent kids to camp, and so much more. Below are some highlights:

We started our summer off at LYO (Lutheran Youth Organization) Camp to grow in our leadership. Myself and Ashley spent time playing games, learning leadership skills, and growing with other youth and adults from the NE MN Synod.

Last June/July a group of adults and students went to Boston, MA to learn, grow, and serve. We spent our time bonding as a group, learning about our faith and the great work happening at the Boys and Girl club, and exploring the history of Boston.

In July a group of 8th and 9th graders attended Luther Point Bible Camp as part of our confirmation program. These students had the opportunity to connect with their faith, learn in an intentional environment, and hang out in the great outdoors.

We welcomed back the McAvoy family for a great week of Vacation Bible School in July! We went camping and adventured with God exploring different themes while playing games, crafting, and worshipping together! Thank you to all of the high school volunteers, Wayne Hansmann, Lori Rydberg, Kris Jahnz, Dede Foster, and everyone else who donated to the great week!

Sunday School kicked off in September and we have enjoyed our time singing, crafting, and hearing stories that you hear during worship! We explore a theme that goes along with the scripture and are learning about the church year too! We have also helped pack bags for the backpack program throughout the year! We are so thankful we can give back on Sundays! Thank you to our wonderful teachers Ashley, Kathy, Lori, Gina, and others who step in when needed!

Confirmation remains on Wednesday nights with our 7th, 8th, and 9th graders. This year we focused on bible stories in the Old and New Testament. We could not do this ministry without our great mentors. Thank you to Eric Wicktor, Kathy Jahnz, and Cindy Schmidt for saying yes to being confirmation mentors.

Kids of the Kingdom is our Wednesday after school program that welcomes in kids in elementary school. We enjoy our time playing games, snacking, and hearing bible stories each week! We have so far focused on the Old Testament books of the bible, Gods love for us, and in our upcoming session we will be learning the New Testament books of the bible!

Youth Group is an ever-changing program as we listen to the youth in our congregation and their needs. We are trying out different formats and days to figure out how we can best support each other!

Thank you to each and every one of you for your prayers, donations, and time you put into these ministries. This work could not be done without your servant hearts. While the past year has been a rollercoaster we are looking forward to what the next year has to bring!

*Blessings,
Leigha Lange*



Property and Grounds 2022 Spring Report

KNK concrete's bid of \$9320 was accepted. Part of the project was completed in October of 2021 and the remainder will be completed in this spring.

There continues to be issues with the door by the Pre-school. Northern Door has been contacted several times. We are hoping the situation is resolved soon.

Repairing the parking lot and replacing the fellowship hall/youth room carpet continue to be two very large future projects that need to be addressed shortly.

The property on the NE side of the church has been determined to have a assessed value of roughly \$30000.

Parking lot lighting was significantly improved this past fall thanks to the work of Mark Madison.

*Property Team,
Brent Weiss, Wayne Hansmann, John Schille*

Mission and Outreach Spring 2022 Semi-Annual Report

Projects completed:

- Advent bags delivered to ORLC members in December 2021
- Easter Palm packets to be delivered April 2022

Future opportunities proposed:

- Attendance tracking at weekly church service.
 - The goal of a weekly attendance tracker would be to capture accurate information for members, uncover opportunities for requested outreach and provide a way to acquire visitor information.

Other Mission/Outreach areas include Food Shelf donations, Rainy Day Fund and Backpack Program.

*If you are involved in any of these mission/outreach areas please reach out to me if there are updates you want council to be aware of, help for your program is needed or budget lines that need to be addressed.

I encourage all members of ORLC to look for opportunities to serve in the church or in the community.

Each of you must make up your own mind about how much to give. But don't feel sorry that you must give and don't feel you are forced to give. God loves people who love to give. God can bless you with everything you need, and you will always have more than enough to do all kinds of good things for others.

2 Corinthians 9:7-8

Submitted by Erin Anderson

Worship Committee

First of all, the committee would like to thank Doug Pieper for his 11 years of faithful service on chair of this group! Wow!! He has stepped out of that position for now, but we are still continuously seeking him for advice. This is now mostly about making our sound system for livestream and radio better. It is an ongoing challenge.

The committee consists of the council representative, altar guild, organist, and other music leaders. Lois Bengtson and Doug Berglund took over co-chairing the committee last November.

We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:45. Please drop in if you have any questions or ideas to help us make worship here at church better.

Our focus now will be on summer picnic church at Robinson Park on Wednesday evenings starting with food and music at 6:00, followed by the service and message at 6:30. Dates are June 15th – August 10th.

Special thanks to Glenna, our church organist and pianist; choir with Jen Krinke; and all other teams that work on adding praise music for Sunday morning worship.

I love the praise song called, "Heart of Worship," that Prayerworks often sings for morning worship. It reminds us that "the heart of worship is all about You, Jesus."

Lois Bengtson, co-chair

Healing Prayer Ministry

It is a tremendous joy to be part of the healing and prayer ministry here at Our Redeemer. The team meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. to pray and plan for any ideas and needs that have come forth, and also pray for any slips from the Sanctuary Wall Cross.

Since the November Semi-Annual meeting, this group has compiled the booklet, "12 Days of Christmas", which was sent out in the Christmas EvArts delivery packet, and then the 5 Finger prayer guide, sent in the Palm Sunday delivery. In December we planned and livestreamed the Blue Christmas service. In January the team offered the 5th Sunday Healing focus during morning worship with healing prayer and anointing with oil. We are excited to present a Spring Conference retreat day on April 9th, using the teachings of Lisa Whittle, author of "The Hard Good".

Other ongoing opportunities include; Intentional Prayer for ORLC on Sunday mornings at 8:00 in the family room, Text prayer chain, contact Kris Gross, 651-236-0511, remembering Wall Cross requests, and being available for personal prayer time. This could be for yourself, family members, or any other concerns. Please join us at any time, you are welcome.

We have several Bible verses as mandate to heal in Jesus' Name. This one is particularly good. James 5:13-14, "Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord."

Blessings to all, Healing Team

**OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
ENVIRONMENTAL ARTS & WORSHIP TEAM**

**SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING
OCTOBER 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022**

SEASONAL DECORATING: Oct 13 - Fall Decorating
Nov 30 - Christmas Decorating & Pot Luck

GIFT PACKETS - 350 Christmas gift packs assembled - worked w Healing Prayer Team
300 delivered, 50 mailed
Easter Packets scheduled to be delivered by 4/10

Budget: \$1500
\$ 272 - expenses as of 2/28/22

Purchases - Christmas Tree Lights, Christmas Tree Ornaments, Christmas Altar Star, Outdoor
Extension Cords

VOLUNTEER work completed:

- * Walls painted in the new altar guild storage room
- * New storage shelves built in East loft for Youth
- * New brackets built & pole installed for hanging banners
- * New knobs installed on fellowship hall doors & others in the Narthex
- * Ceiling tiles & grids painted in the Narthex & Narthex Hallways
- * Walls painted in office administrator office
- * Christmas card photo & staff photos taken
- * Youth storage & Banner storage switched places
- * Staff photos hung by council photos in fellowship hall
- * Plaques hung for Mens Morning Bible Study

UPCOMING PROJECTS

Repaint, repair & redecorate the West wing hallways, restrooms, entry & music room
Redecorate West Wing Loft Youth Space & assist WELCA with West Loft Storage organization
New fabric for kneeling bench
Recycle Bin in Fellowship Hall

Thanks to all the committee members & many volunteers who make all things happen as we work to enhance opportunity for fellowship, worship & learning. We strive to enhance a sense & presence of Christ and keep our building welcoming and comfortable.

*Sue Osterdyk, Jenny Christensen, Linda Haug, Merrilee Eberhart,
Deb Eck, Mel Knutson, Kim Haug, Diane Lombard*



Heritage Committee
Annual Report
March 2021 – March 2022

“Memories we collect and give...brighten our hearts as long as we live.”

Members: Jane Carlson, Ella Caroon, Marilyn Caza, Barbara Christensen, Ilene Haavisto, Jennifer Krinke, Diane Teich, Kris Gross (council liaison).

Below are tasks members completed in the past year:

Chose the 1817 hymn title, *God's Word Is Our Great Heritage*, as our theme.

Celebrated the 75th Anniversary with a Worship Service and Celebration on October 17, 2022.

- Commemorative bulletins and brochures of ORLC history distributed.
- Banners of the 70th and 75 anniversaries adorned the sanctuary.
- Pastor Stiles conducted the service.
- Bishop Odgren of the NE MN Synod delivered the message.
- The ORLC Choir sang a medley of traditional hymns.
- Former Pastor Boettner and Pastor Koch shared their memories of ORLC during Fellowship Hour following the service.
- Refreshments provided and served by WELCA in the Fellowship Hall.
- Items of historical interest gathered and displayed in the Heritage Room by Heritage Committee members.
- Pastor Vander Vegt continued our celebration with an anniversary message at the Worship Service on Sunday, February 6, 2022.

Acquired and identified additional previously-missing confirmation photos and identified confirmands in others. Continued to document and file archival information as it became known and available from members, newspaper and church activities.

Added items to Heritage Room including:

- Display and storage cabinet made by Dave Mettler
- Framed and matted photos of Pine Grove, Milburn and Our Redeemer Churches.
- Early lithographs and crocheted wall hanging.
- Hymn/Bible Verse Board with changeable numbers and letters
- Added new items from Sunday School and youth programs to Heritage Cabinet.

Banner commemorating the 75th Anniversary designed and made by Ilene Haavisto and Patty Espeseth.

Wrote articles for our monthly newsletter.

Began discussion on the need for a procedure for deciding what items are saved.

Thank you to Heritage Committee members for your enthusiasm and dedication to the tasks we accomplished this past year and to all other ORLC church members who helped in their completion.

If you have memories to share, if you are interested in helping with any part of a project, have photos or other items to share and/or donate, please contact a Heritage Committee member.

Prepared by: Barbara Christensen, Committee Chair



Pine City BackPack Food Program

Feed a child; grow a community

320-629-4122 djackson@isd578.org

Pine City BackPack Food Program

Spring Semi-Annual Report

April 2022

This is the EIGHTH year that the BackPack Food Program has been providing food to Pine City students who don't have enough food to eat over the weekend. From September 2021 to the beginning of March 2022, a total of 606 food bags were delivered: 258 to the elementary, 180 to the high school, and 168 to Vision.

Cash donations and food donations remain stable. As a result, the state of the BackPack Food Program is financially strong. In fact, because of the support from Our Redeemer members as well as the Catholic church and various Pine City businesses and organizations, we were able to send extra food home during extended time off at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and spring break.

This year we have also started a Facebook page and email, to help the community stay informed, and reach out with any questions. Our Facebook page is Pine City BackPack Program, and our email is, pinecitybackpackprogram@gmail.com.

THANK YOU to everyone who made this program year possible. Whether you volunteered your time to fill bags, collect food items, deliver food, or pray for the program, your support is greatly appreciated. We are living up to our mission to feed a child and grow a community!

Submitted, Jenah Newman

Children of Joy Preschool Semi-Annual Report 2022



Thank you ORLC and members for your continued financial and prayer support of our preschool. We have served 19 students and their families this year (with a possible 20th as of this writing).

Our scholarship fund has enabled us to help families in need. Due to Covid, we needed to quarantine/close down for a week in December. Thanks to grants, we could pay our staff and give tuition credits to all families. Carolyn Tuckner, our director, has been applying for and receiving various grants this entire school year which has been very helpful. In addition, the board served the Ash Wednesday Soup & Sandwich and we did our fall Apple Pie sale. Butter braids are planned for Easter time.



Some of the many things studied this past year include bugs (always a hit!), pets and plants. We regularly change up the classroom with new dramatic play areas such as a Post Office. I Love to Read month was a big success with lots of volunteers coming in and reading to students. A recent discussion topic was Kindness including how to be a good friend; students were challenged to do acts of kindness throughout their day/week. Please check out our Facebook site for a fun video on the obstacle course students got to do when it was much too cold to be outside. There are also pictures of some of the days we could be outside. They love the back yard.

We are abundantly blessed with Casey Tyberg as our Lead Teacher and Rosalie Aschemann as co-teacher as well as Carolyn Tuckner continuing to volunteer as our director. Rosalie has gone back to school in addition to her teaching duties to finish her degree. We've been trying to find subs and assistant teachers without much success. Leigha Lange arranged to be able to sub for us which has been a wonderful blessing. We plan to install google office to help staff keep up with parent requests and communication.

Three Summer Camp sessions will be held again this upcoming summer. This is designed to give children a sample of preschool while older siblings are busy with summer rec. It is for any child who is potty trained through entering Kindergarten.
If you are interested for your child or grandchild—please contact Casey.



The ORLC Environmental committee met with our teachers to discuss changes needed to help make the back entryway and hallway more welcoming. Through a Parent Aware grant, we are planning to replace the lockers with wooden cubbies and coat hooks. We also plan to upgrade some items in the classroom that have been well used and are needing replacement. Our board usually meets monthly while staying in contact between meetings as needed. Active board members include: Carolyn Tuckner, Steve Hallan, Kris Clementson, Lisa Johnson, Dr. Lisa Nos-Tollefson, Patty Keyport, Ashley Espeseth and Becca Groe.

Please pray for our students, their families, our staff and board. A challenge we face is a lack of substitute teachers in case one of our teachers cannot work. We are in need of a pool of names who could sub or assist one of our teachers. Please pass along any interested inquires!

Pass the word about our preschool to your friends and neighbors. We are currently signing up students for next year. Share a hobby or interest in our classroom. Continue to support our fundraisers. Thank you for walking with us as we serve our community!

Patty Keyport
Children of Joy Board Member
CoJ: 320-629-2985 or orlckidz@gmail.com
Facebook @ CreatingJoyInLearning

Creating Joy in Learning