



# PARISH PARCHMENT



Holy Redeemer  
Lutheran Church

[www.holyredeemer.church](http://www.holyredeemer.church)

February 2021

*Growing to and for Christ!*

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*<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." <sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Mark 1:9-13 NRSV*

Dear Beloved Community of HRLC,

We did it! We made it through our first Zoom Annual Meeting with a few folks in the sanctuary who have limited or no access to the Internet. Thanks to Linda Singelstad, Patrick Tomlin, Nicole Hubbell, Bill Davidson – our outgoing members of the Council

– as well as to Phil Hansen, Beth Fowler, Aaron Giese, Chris Beyer and Tracy Kisling for their leadership throughout last year and during our Annual Meeting. Of course, we offer a huge shout out to Jeff Hand for assembling and creating the materials for our meeting as well as the distribution of the documents and faithfully sending the instructions for entering the Zoom meetings. Thanks also to Jackie Murphy for offering her musical talents for our devotions. We offer our gratitude to each and every one of you who shared and shouldered ministry over the last year in these difficult times and to those who kindly created and submitted reports chronicling our life together. Now, as God's beloved and blessed people, we look toward the future before us so that we may continue to bless one another and bless those around us in our community.

As the days of Epiphany's brilliant light shines into the first two weeks of February culminating on February 16<sup>th</sup>, Mardi Gras/Fat Tuesday, we are on the threshold of our Lenten journey once again. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of our travels with Jesus on February 17<sup>th</sup>. This year, due to the virus, we will have an opportunity to pick up communion packets and small containers of ashes for Ash Wednesday. There will be a designated time from 5-6:00 pm *before* the live streaming Ash Wednesday service for you to come to HRLC and pick up your supplies for the service. Ash Wednesday worship will begin at 6:30 pm and will include the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. We completely understand and agree that this doesn't come close to being in person, but we think that it's the best we can do for now. As more and more of our members receive their vaccinations in the next few months, we hope to add them back into the sanctuary over time. As always, whether we've received our vaccination or not, we'll need to wear our masks *at all times* whenever we're in the church around others.

The theme for our Lenten journey this year is, *Lessons from the Wilderness*. This picks up the message from Mark 1:12-13, that after his baptism by John, Jesus was driven out into the wilderness and ministered to by the wild beasts and the angels. While the wilderness can be a lonely and difficult place, it can also be a place of healing, introspection, grace and mercy. The lessons from our wilderness experience wandering around in the uncertainties of the pandemic and other tough circumstances can be difficult and they can also be a blessing. We'll have time to ponder over and pray about the lessons we've discovered in the wilderness on Tuesday evenings at 7:15 pm beginning on February 23<sup>rd</sup> as I host a Zoom Bible study on the Gospel of Mark. Please contact Jeff in the office if you'd like to participate in this Lenten Bible Study. We'll send you the link closer to the first study night.

On Wednesdays, we'll be gathering for live streaming Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00 pm. beginning on February 24<sup>th</sup>. The First Sunday of Lent is February 21<sup>st</sup> centering on this gospel from Mark as Jesus enters the wilderness for forty days. As we ascend to the mountaintop of the Transfiguration of Our Lord, let's join our lives and spirits together for our walk down the mountain with Jesus into a wilderness that may hold grace and blessings for us all. Holding you always in my prayers...

Blessings, peace and strength in the name of Jesus,  
Pastor Jayne

## Council Corner

Holy Redeemer's Council met on Thursday, January 14. (Meeting minutes were previously sent via email or postal mail, but a few highlights are listed here.)

**Suspension:** Little has changed regarding the pandemic to warrant changes in our suspension. Current information and trends are not consistent with safely reopening the church to in-person activities, including worship.

Worship will continue to be streamed on Facebook Live on Sunday mornings. If you are unable to join the live stream, you can also watch the recorded version on either Facebook or YouTube later in the week.

The task force will continue to do its work and provide best practice recommendations. Council will continue to evaluate at their regularly scheduled meetings, the next of which is February 11, 2021 (also via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.).

**Finances:** During the month of December, we were short of our total budgeted income goal by \$3,801. This included a general fund shortage of \$5,459 and a building fund surplus of \$1,658.

### **Annual Meeting Highlights:**

- Adopted 2021 Ministry Spending Plan
- Ratified HRLC Constitution (approved last year)
- First vote approval of constitution change recommended by SE Iowa Synod
- Thanked outgoing council members: Linda Singelstad, Nicole Hubbell, Patrick Tomlin, and Bill Davidson and recognized Harold Miller and David Adams who had stepped down earlier
- Welcomed new council members by acclamation: Mary Buelow, Nicholas Hand, Brett Nitzschke, and Jon Singelstad
- Reaffirmed returning council members, who elected officers at their brief meeting following the annual meeting (see below)
- Received reports from Pastor, staff, officers, and committees and heard update from Coronavirus (Re-Opening) Task Force.
- Updates regarding roof, fence, and shed repairs
- Received notification that PPP loan had been forgiven

## Newly Elected Council Officers

President: Aaron Giese

Vice President: Beth Fowler

Secretary: Chris Beyer

Treasurer: Phil Hansen

Financial Secretary: Tracy Kisling

Please support them and keep them in your prayers as they take on leadership roles in the "business" of the church.

## SE Iowa Synod

### **A Word of Farewell**

Forty-one and half years after ordination and after twelve years serving as an assistant to the bishop in this synod, I eagerly enter retirement. It's been a good run. I've served three wonderful parishes and have had the opportunity to work with leaders – pastors and deacons, as well as elected lay leaders – in numerous congregations in Southeastern Iowa. Along the way, I have met and learned from some incredible people – churchwide and other synod staffs; folks at LSI, Interfaith Power and Light, Bread for the World, and the Iowa legislature; to say nothing of the gifted colleagues at the Synod Center for Ministry. For them and all of you, all I can say is "Thank you and thanks be to God."

During the pandemic, Carol and I have been watching the six seasons of the TV series "Northern Exposure" – not once but twice. We will likely watch it a third time. Set in fictional Cicely, Alaska, it is also the reason that Carol had me read a book by Heather Lende entitled *If You Lived Here, I Would Know Your Name*. I liked it so much that she gave me three of her other books for Christmas. I am now reading *Of Bears and Ballots*. I highly recommend these books as she reflects on life in Haines, Alaska. "Northern Exposure" and the books by Lende have much to say about life in community and have reminded me of the importance of being connected with those around us in positive ways, even with those whom we may not particularly like or with whom we disagree. They speak about what it means to "share our mutual woes; our mutual burdens bear." Community is not easy which means being the Church and being in a congregation is not easy. Yet I am convinced that congregations rooted in the love of God made known in Jesus Christ hold

the best potential for genuine renewal and transformation among us.

I have the deepest respect for pastors, deacons and lay leaders who seek to care for one another and who dare to be involved in the life of the community and of neighbors, especially tending to the needs of the most vulnerable. I will continue to pray for all of you as you work together to that end.

Pastor Paul D. Ostrem

If you would like to reach Pastor Ostrem at his new email address it is [paulostrem53@gmail.com](mailto:paulostrem53@gmail.com).

## Synod Assembly 2021

The Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly will take place on **Saturday, May 22, 2021**. The assembly will take place online. For more information including information about voting members and attendance see the full letter:

<https://app.robly.com/archive?id=2b6232853daf70af94c4b519acd1e9b1&v=true>.

## Additional Synod Information

For more information from our synod, visit <https://seiasynod.org/>. There you can find weekly newsletters (<https://seiasynod.org/news-events/news/>), messages from Bishop Current, and a number of resources related to COVID-19 (<https://seiasynod.org/covid-19/>).

## Outreach

### January Mission of Hope

Thanks to Nicole, Courtney, and Allison for prepping the boxes for our January Mission of Hope meal. One hundred ham and turkey hoagies were made by De, Shari, Jan, and Judy. Our thanks to Dick Smith for delivering the meals to Mission.

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Mission of Hope fund. Your help is greatly appreciated.

**The next Mission of Hope will be Thursday, February 18.**

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Offering

In February, our designated fourth Sunday offering is scheduled for February 28. The proceeds from this offering will go to **Community Health Free Clinic**.

*“Serving over 7,000 people each year by providing free medical, dental, vision, and prescription services!!”* Please note that HRLC member and dentist, Mark Marz, volunteers at CHFC along with members, Shari Singelstad and Judy Toy.

## Linn Community Food Bank

As has been reported widely in the news, the pandemic, derecho, and holidays combine to create desperate need for donations at local food banks.

Our next Food Bank weekend (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month) is scheduled for February 14. We can show a little extra love on Valentine’s Day. We continue to thank you, as does Linn Community Food Bank, for your generous giving.

## How to Give to Special Offerings

To donate to Community Health Free Clinic, Linn Community Food Bank, or other community partners, simply indicate on your offering envelope, the memo line of your check, or in a separate note. Counters will ensure it gets the proper designation and funds will be sent to the organizations. Thank you for your generous support.

## Stewardship

***Share your harvest, if you are able...***

***...sharing gratitude for your gifts***

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus!

Thank you for the financial commitment that you made for 2021. Your commitment will further God’s work at our church. The generosity of so many people supports our ministries for children and youth, the elderly, the sick, the shut-ins, our staff, and our facilities, along with outreach and missions.

The stewardship emphasis, ***Share your harvest, if you are able***, reminded us of how generous God’s stewards are. God uses and works through us to accomplish this work for which we give God praise and thanks. It is truly an honor and privilege to be

God's stewards through whom we accomplish the mission of Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit, working through God's Holy Word, transforms us to be faithful stewards. Through faith, we know all of our gifts are from God, the motivation to serve and to give comes from God and God promises to bless those who give freely and generously and the gifts we share in our ministry at HRLC.

We will keep you and the entire congregation informed on the work of our ministries throughout the year so you can see your contributions in action. We pray for your ongoing involvement, also, in the ministry and mission of our church during this most unusual time.

Thank you again for sharing your blessings and being a partner in this journey of faith. May God's blessings be with you and your loved ones as you faithfully manage all that God has entrusted to you!

In Christ's love,  
Pastor Jayne



## Spring Blood Drive

Mark your calendars for the Gloria Dei/Holy Redeemer spring blood drive:

**Friday, March 5, 2021  
2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

at:

**Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Ctr  
3001 Williams Blvd. SW  
Cedar Rapids**

**Donors are urgently needed!**

**You can sign up online at:**

[https://login.bloodcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/95747](https://login.bloodcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/95747)

**or by calling Jeff Hand at 899-7688.**

**Blood donation is safe & essential.**



## Adult News

### Small Group & Committee Activities

COVID statistics for Linn County continue to be inconsistent with reopening HRLC to worship at this time. However, limited in-person meetings can be held at the church.

If you would like to meet at the church, please contact Administrative Assistant, Jeff Hand, via email or cell phone (899-7688) for scheduling. This will help us to ensure that we can keep groups distributed on different days and do not have too many people in the building at one time. This is the best way we can care for one another in the coming months.

# Stephen Ministry



## Update and Pause

Since December 2020, Holy Redeemer's Stephen Ministry has come to a season of transition. The Stephen Ministry team meets yearly for a recommitment review in November. At that time 4 people declined to continue as Stephen Ministers for now. In December, one Stephen Leader (David) has stepped down and the other (Marti) will step down by June 2021.

That leaves 2 active Stephen Ministers and one Stephen Leader for now. In the current situation and with the constraints of this COVID era, we are not equipped to take on new Care Receivers and so will not be taking on any new Care Receivers in the foreseeable future.

There are 3 Care Receivers currently in relationship with a Stephen Minister. Two of those have been active for 2 years and may be heading for closure. Those current active caring relationships will continue to be supervised as best as is possible for now.

The current and past Stephen Ministers may be considering attending the Leaders Training Course in the next few months. There is an online version available. If anyone else in the congregation is interested in that, please contact Pastor Jayne or Marti Marz for more information. Another option is to go to [stephenministries.org](http://stephenministries.org).

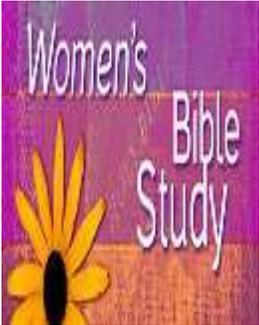
Those who have been Holy Redeemer's Stephen Ministers have seen the Lord bring awareness of His Love, growth in faith and real healing through the caring relationships. Many have expressed thank-fulness for God's faithfulness in this way.

*Jesus said, 'By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.'*  
John 13:35

**Let's Do Lunch**  
*Will not meet in February*

**Guidelines for meeting:** Groups must be limited to 10 or fewer people. All individuals must wear a mask and maintain 6 feet of safe distancing at all times. Please limit the length of all meetings and clean all surfaces at the conclusion of your meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff or a member of the task force.

## Women's Bible Study

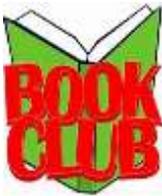


The Bible study for February is: **"Journey with Angels"** Session 2, "Turnaround Angels." The focus verse is: **"Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."** (Luke 15:10)

(Copies are available in the WELCA notebook on the shelf under the women's bulletin board.) If you would like an email copy, please contact Jeff Hand, Administrative Assistant.

## WIGS (Book Discussion Group)

WIGS will meet at the church on Thursday, February 11 at 9:30 am. Social distancing is required as is wearing a mask. The book for the month is: *The Last Runaway* by Tracy Chevalier. If you have questions, please call Jeri Hansen at 396-2882.



## Book List for 2021

- Feb:** *The Last Runaway* (Tracy Chevalier)
- Mar:** *The Daughter's Walk* (Jan Kirkpatrick)
- Apr:** *The Gown* (Jennifer Robson)
- May:** *This Tender Land* (William Kent Krueger)
- June:** *The Dutch House* (Ann Patchett)
- July:** *The Collector's Apprentice* (B.A. Shapiro)
- Aug:** *A Time for Mercy* (John Grisham)
- Sept:** *Sold on a Monday* (Kristina McMorris)
- Oct:** *The Island of Sea Women* (Lisa See)
- Nov:** *Transcription* (Kate Atkinson)
- Dec:** *The Girl Who Came Home* (Hazel Gaynor)
- Jan 2022:** *Looking for Me* (Beth Hoffman)

## Happy Valentine's Day from LSI!

"We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19

Lutheran Services in Iowa's (LSI) mission is about love: responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. We give thanks for all the ministry partners, both individuals and congregations, who help share this love for Iowa children, adults, and families!



We see this love in newly adopted children and their families, in teens who are overcoming years of trauma and building bright futures, in Iowans with disabilities who are growing their independence and confidence, in new parents who are raising strong and healthy families, and in so many other moments of joy. You can help carry out our mission of hope and healing by giving a gift and showing love to the Iowa families we serve. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563-676-2065.

Thank you for the love you share and create through LSI. Happy Valentine's Day!

*Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at [LSIowa.org](http://LSIowa.org) and [Facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

### Building a Bond

Julie had made a promise years ago: If anything happened to her friend, Julie would take care of her son, Jacob.

When Jacob's mom passed away and he had no place to go, Julie stepped up. Her six children had grown up and moved out of her home, and she had the resources and space needed to care for Jacob. She became a mentor through LSI's Host Homes program. The service enables Iowans with disabilities to move into a private family home and live with a specially-selected mentor instead of living in a shared space with roommates and several staff members.

Jacob moved into Julie's home last December and now, the two are thriving. Jacob is learning to take care of himself and build the life skills he needs to feel more confident and independent. He is learning to cook and enjoys looking up new recipes to try, especially meatloaf.

"It's a great opportunity. You're changing their lives," Julie says. "You get to know each other more personally. We have a lot of discussions and heart-to-hearts."

Jacob is finishing his senior year of high school. He enjoys learning new things and visiting new places, and he dreams of the day when he and Julie can go on more trips. Once it is safe to do so, Jacob is determined to visit more zoos and take a trip to Canada.

"It's good," Jacob says of his Host Homes match with Julie. "She makes me laugh."

## Miscellaneous

### Office Remains Closed

While the church office remains officially closed, Pastor Jayne has been at the church from the mid-morning until the mid-afternoon, usually Tuesday through Friday. The times may vary according to other ministry needs in the congregation. So, it's best to call her or email if you need to reach her or visit



her at the church. You may reach Pastor by email ([pastor@holyredeemer.church](mailto:pastor@holyredeemer.church)), text or cell phone: 320-492-6377. If you have Facebook, you may reach her by Messenger. Admin Assistant, Jeff Hand, can also be reached by email ([secretary@holyredeemer.church](mailto:secretary@holyredeemer.church)), text or cell phone: 319-899-7688. If you need to stop by the church, please contact Jeff to make arrangements. He stops at church daily to process mail and handle the limited tasks that cannot be done from home.

## Future Events

### February 2021

Note: Activities in our building continue to be suspended except with council permission.

<b>Feb 2 (Tue)</b>	Bible Study (via email) 7:15 pm Task Force meeting
<b>Feb 3 (Wed)</b>	1:00 pm Staff Meeting 7:15 pm Worship & Music Comm
<b>Feb 4 (Thu)</b>	6:30 pm Executive Mtg (Zoom) Committees (TBD - chairpersons)
<b>Feb 7 (Sun)</b>	<b>9:00 am Worship (FB Live)</b>
<b>Feb 9 (Tue)</b>	Bible Study (via email)
<b>Feb 11 (Thu)</b>	9:30 am WiGS 7:00 pm Council Meeting (Zoom)
<b>Feb 14 (Sun)</b>	<b>9:00 am Worship (FB Live)</b> Food Bank Weekend
<b>Feb 16 (Tue)</b>	Bible Study (via email)

	5:00–6:00 pm Pick up ashes & communion
<b>Feb 17 (Wed)</b>	<b>6:30 pm Ash Wednesday worship (FB Live)</b>
<b>Feb 18 (Thu)</b>	Mission of Hope Meal
<b>Feb 19 (Fri)</b>	<b>Newsletter Deadline</b>
<b>Feb 21 (Sun)</b>	<b>9:00 am Worship (FB Live)</b>
	9:00 am DUO Day
<b>Feb 23 (Tue)</b>	Bible Study (via email) 7:15 pm <i>Lessons from the Wilderness</i> (Zoom)
<b>Feb 24 (Wed)</b>	<b>7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer (FB Live)</b>
	<b>9:00 am Worship (FB Live)</b>
<b>Feb 28 (Sun)</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> W/E offering – Comm. Health Free Clinic

### March 2021

(All Events Tentative and Subject to Change)

<b>Mar 2:</b>	12:30 pm Card Players 3:00 pm Bible Study 7:15 pm <i>Lessons from the Wilderness</i> (Zoom)
<b>Mar 3:</b>	1:00 pm Staff meeting <b>7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer (FB Live)</b>
<b>Mar 4:</b>	9:30 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Executive Meeting 7:00 pm Committee Meetings
<b>Mar 7:</b>	9:00 am Worship
<b>Mar 9:</b>	3:00 pm Bible Study 7:15 pm <i>Lessons from the Wilderness</i> (Zoom)
<b>Mar 10</b>	<b>7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer (FB Live)</b>
<b>Mar 11:</b>	9:30 am WiGS 7:00 pm Council Meetings
<b>Mar 14:</b>	9:00 am Worship Food Bank Weekend

<b>Mar 16:</b>	12:30 pm Card Players 3:00 pm Bible Study 7:15 pm <i>Lessons from the Wilderness</i> (Zoom)
<b>Mar 17:</b>	<b>7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer (FB Live)</b>
<b>Mar 18:</b>	Mission of Hope Meal
<b>Mar 19:</b>	<b>Newsletter Deadline</b>
<b>Mar 21:</b>	9:00 am Worship
<b>Mar 23:</b>	3:00 pm Bible Study 7:15 pm <i>Lessons from the Wilderness</i> (Zoom)
<b>Mar 24:</b>	<b>7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer (FB Live)</b>
<b>Mar 28:</b>	9:00 am Worship 4 <sup>th</sup> W/E offering – Feed Iowa First
<b>Mar 30</b>	3:00 pm Bible Study 7:15 pm <i>Lessons from the Wilderness</i> (Zoom)



**Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church**  
720 Edgewood Road NW  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52405

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### Church Staff

#### Pastor Jayne Thompson

*Pastor*  
319-396-8547 ext 11  
pastor@holyredeemer.church

#### Jeff Hand

*Administrative Assistant*  
(319) 396-8547 ext 10  
secretary@holyredeemer.church

#### Jacqueline Murphy

*Director of Music Ministries*  
(319) 396-8547

#### Open Position

*Custodian*  
(319) 396-8547

#### Church Office Hours

**Monday – Friday**  
**9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Worship Services**  
**Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**  
**(Streaming on FB Live)**



*If we live by the Spirit, let us also  
be guided by the Spirit.*

*Galatians 5:25 (NRSV)*



**Holy Redeemer**  
Lutheran Church

*Join us as we grow to and for Christ!!!*