



PARISH PARCHMENT



Holy Redeemer
Lutheran Church

www.holyredeemer.church

Growing to and for Christ!

May 2020

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²⁵All the skillful women spun with their hands, and brought what they had spun in blue and purple and crimson yarns and fine linen; ²⁶all the women whose hearts moved them to use their skill spun the goats' hair. ²⁷And the leaders brought onyx stones and gems to be set in the ephod and the breastpiece, ²⁸and spices and oil for the light, and for the anointing-oil, and for the fragrant incense. ²⁹All the Israelite men and women whose hearts made them willing to bring anything for the work that the Lord had commanded by Moses to be done, brought it as a freewill-offering to the Lord. (Exodus 35:25-29 NRSV)

Dear Beloved Community of HRLC,

These verses from the book of Exodus may seem odd at first glance. Yet, stay with me for a moment. The people of Israel were in exile. At this point in their journey, they had enough of their wanderings. They were sick and tired of being in the desert; they wanted to go home, wherever that Promised Land might be. In their frustration, they made a golden calf and set themselves to dancing and worship around it. Moses, having gone up the mountain to receive the blessing of the commandments from God, returned to see his people partying with reckless abandon, so he threw the tablets to the ground and smashed them. God banishes them from Mount Sinai and tells them to hit the road alone. God says they are on their own because they are a “stiff-necked people,” willful and stubborn indeed. But Moses had interceded for them after they had abandoned their trust in God to get them out of the wilderness and worshipped a golden calf. So, God tells Moses to go up the mountain again and fashion new tablets. The people were given a second chance – again. God, it seems to me is forever giving the human ones who walk the planet many chances to get it right and to walk humbly with God.

So, the verses above are about the details in creating once again the tabernacle for the Lord. I was struck by the invitation to the artisans to bring their very best and to once again bear witness to God’s enduring love and care for God’s people. *²⁵All the skillful women spun with their hands, and brought what they had spun in blue and purple and crimson yarns and fine linen; ²⁶all the women whose hearts moved them to use their skill spun the goats' hair.* The women brought their sewing supplies and fabric and began to create beautiful pieces of art for the Lord. I can’t begin to imagine how one would actually spin goats hair! *²⁹All the Israelite men and women whose hearts made them willing to bring anything for the work that the Lord had commanded by Moses to be done, brought it as a freewill-offering to the Lord.* All the men and women chipped in, and offered their best gifts in a new covenant of faith and new life with God.

We are, it seems to me still in the wilderness, an Easter wilderness, but still one in the unknown circumstances of our global coronavirus crisis. But, as we are at home with more time to slow down and to think about our situation, we come to new revelations about what is really important in our lives. I’ve been so inspired by people across the country and in our own little city of Cedar Rapids, coming together to help out and to offer gifts of support to help get us through this tough time. There are many ways in which I’m buoyed by the kindness, ingenuity and creativity of others: parents assisting their children with online learning, the movement of the hearts lovingly placed in windows, the support for medical workers who are on the frontline of tending the sick and the dying and leaders in cities, towns and hamlets who are working to keep their people safer. I wanted to lift up the mask makers and those who help and support them. There are many folks in our HRLC congregation who have taken up mask making and sewing for others to make simple yet beautiful and often festive masks for those who need them. We all need them. We might not all have the gifts, skills and time to make them. But some among are doing that as a blessing of love and care. The masks have gone near and far. Some have made their way to the hospitals. Others have been sent around the country. Some are gathered in a bin waiting to be claimed by others who may need them. All of them have been lovingly crafted in a loving

response to a real need in these strange, stressful and often lonely times. You can read more about the masks on page 6. We will get through this and be back together in ways that are still holy, yet safe.

Let's continue to walk humbly with our God in these weird times and let us be stitched together, though we are apart, with powerful love of God that comes to us in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Jayne Thompson

Council Corner

Holy Redeemer's Council met via Zoom conference call on Wednesday, 8 April at 7:00 p.m.

After discussion, the council voted unanimously to **extend the suspension of all church activities through 16 May 2020**. They will re-evaluate at their regularly scheduled meeting on 14 May 2020 (also via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.).

Nicole Hubbell had attended an online Women's Conference and shared with Council that one of the speakers spoke about the "**additional fatigue**" everyone is facing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This additional fatigue is real, it is normal, and we should recognize it as a new facet in our lives. Rest, adequate sleep, and personal mental health activities will help mitigate the impact of some of this additional fatigue.

Based on guidance from the synod office, Linda is working with Pastor on a '**ministry plan**' should Pastor become ill with COVID-19.

Finally, financial secretary, Nicole Hubbell, and treasurer, Patrick Tomlin, report that, as a result of very generous donations in March, **we met our budgeted income goal for the month**. A big thank you to all for continuing to support HRLC's ministries in these challenging times.

Office Remains Closed

As we all shelter in place, the church office remains officially closed. You can reach Pastor by email

(pastor@holyredeemer.church), text or cell phone: 320-492-6377. She will get back to you as soon as she is able! Admin Assistant, Jeff Hand can also be reached by email (secretary@holyredeemer.church), text or cell phone: 319-899-7688. Jeff continues to stop at church daily to process mail, check voice mail, and handle the limited tasks that cannot be done from home. If you need to stop by the church, please contact Jeff to make arrangements.



SE Iowa Synod

Synod Assembly Rescheduled

Synod Assembly has been rescheduled for August 7th and 8th, 2020 at Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines. This may result in additional expense, as our budget was based on the assembly being held in Iowa City with no need for accommodations.

Additional 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 Burk, and a number of resources related to COVID-19 (<https://seiasynod.org/covid-19/>).

Outreach

Mission of Hope Meal

"¹O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! ²Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever." (Psalm 118:1-2, NRSV)

Outreach is grateful to our congregation for the many ways they supported our April Mission of Hope meal. Thank you to Pastor Jayne and our Council for their continued guidance and support as we navigate a different way to serve. Thank you to Judy Toy and David Toy for coordinating and delivering our boxed lunches. Thank you to the many members who were able to contribute monetarily to Holy Redeemer's Mission of Hope Meal Fund. Thank you to all who keep this outreach in their prayers!!! Praise to God for keeping our hearts together to be able to continue to serve!!!

We are grateful to Zio John's Restaurants for preparing 100 boxed lunches offered to us at a very reasonable price. And, of course, thank you to Kim Reem and her staff at Mission of Hope who are

truly God's frontline warriors. As always, in Jesus' name, our prayers and love to the diners who are served through the Mission.

Our next scheduled Mission meal is set for Thursday, May 21. We anticipate being asked to again provide boxed lunches. Outreach will continue to monitor Mission developments and work with our Council to determine the best way to meet this commitment. Your monetary donations to support Mission meals is always appreciated. You may write a check to Holy Redeemer noting that your donation is for our church's Mission of Hope Meal Fund.

With a full heart for God's goodness and your kindness,

Outreach: Judy Toy, Nicole Hubbell, Loretta Shannon, Arlan and De Braun, Jan Overland

4th Sunday Offering

In May, our designated fourth Sunday offering is scheduled for May 24. The proceeds from this offering will go to **America Cancer Society**.

"Relay For Life is the community based, signature fundraising event of the American Cancer Society. Relay is staffed and coordinated by volunteers in more than 5,200 communities and 27 countries. Volunteers give of their time and effort because they believe it's time to take action against cancer. Communities come together to remember loved ones lost, honor survivors of all cancers, and raise money to help the American Cancer Society make a global impact on cancer."

This is an HRLC tradition organized by member, Dave Anderson.

5th Sunday Offering

In May, our designated fifth Sunday offering is scheduled for May 31. The proceeds from this offering will go to **Lutheran Service in Iowa**.

"Mission - Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. Vision - Called by God's spirit and in response to Christ's love, this social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will serve as Jesus served. As a part of the Church's mission, we trust God will work through us to bring health, hope and healing to the world and to advocate for the dignity of our neighbors in community."

How to Give to Special Offerings

With worship services and other activities suspended, you may wonder how to give to Camp EWALU, American Cancer Society, or LSI. When submitting your offering, 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 support.

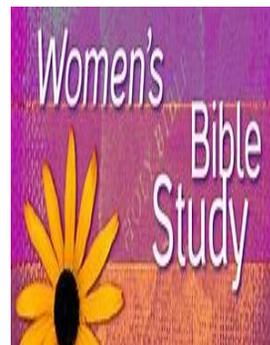
Linn Community Food Bank

The Linn Community Food Bank sent a letter of thanks for Holy Redeemer's contribution of 101 pounds of food and \$1,811 during their first quarter. (These amounts represent our giving in December, January, and February.)

Adult News

Women's Bible Study

This month's Bible study is an intergenerational devotional. Angela Khabebe



brings us "Plenty Good Room," based on an old African American spiritual that speaks to the inclusivity so many people yearn to know in the body of Christ. The focus verses are **Luke 24:28-29**.

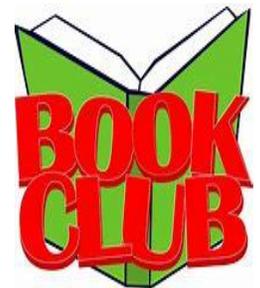
(Copies of the study are available in the WELCA notebook. Contact the office if you would like a copy emailed or sent to your home.)

WIGS (Book Discussion Group)

As with all group activities, WIGS is unable to meet at the church. However, this is an ideal time to read.

The book for the month is: *The Next Year in Havana* by **Chanel Cleeton**. The hostess for the month is DeAnna Braun.

All are welcome to join us. The reading list for 2020 can be found on the Women's bulletin board.





Stephen Ministry Still at it while Staying at Home

Just in case you've been wondering, Holy Redeemer's Stephen Ministry IS staying at it while staying at home during the coronavirus pandemic.

With guidance from Stephen Ministry St Louis, caring relationships are continuing on a regular basis. Texts to set up phone calls, sending encouragement in cards via snail mail and daily prayer are ways Stephen Ministers and Care Receivers are staying connected.

May and June are also the months when some congregation members and families will have an opportunity to help with evaluating Holy Redeemer's Stephen Ministry. The last evaluation was nearly 18 months ago. That means it's time for another checkup to assess the health of this program and to learn where it might be improved.

Various questionnaires will be mailed to sample groups of 5 families, 15 persons and the 7 current Stephen Ministers. The 2 Stephen Leaders also will work through a survey. All of this will be handled with care and confidentiality.

Participants and their responses will remain anonymous.

All of the data received will be reviewed with an eye for where steps can be taken to revise aspects of the ministry as needed.

A big thank you is due to all those who will be participating in the Stephen Ministry evaluation, even while staying at home as much as possible.

'...Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By His great mercy He has given us a new birth into a living HOPE through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,' (1 Peter 1:3)

From the Admin Desk: Social Media Details

In this time of social distancing, we look for any means of connecting. While email remains our primary method of communicating, HRLC also uses the following social media:

Website (<https://www.holyredeemer.church/>): A website provides broad information about an organization. Our website contains information relevant to both, such as announcements, worship times, calendar of events, and links to other social media. Visitors find what to expect and where to find us.



Facebook: Facebook's stated purpose is "to make the world more open and connected." It's about relationships and sharing our lives virtually when not able to do so in person. Holy Redeemer uses two Facebook elements – (1) a public page provides similar information as the website, but to the established Facebook audience and (2) a private group can be used to share information among members, such as financial reports, council minutes, and small group discussions.

Public:

<https://www.facebook.com/HolyRedeemerCR>

Private:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/holyredeemerlutherancr>



YouTube: YouTube is all about **videos**. HRLC uses YouTube for sharing worship videos and, in the past, video messages. (You can help HRLC get a customized address by subscribing to our channel; we can choose our own address once we have 100 subscribers.) Join us at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCde5HSVUA6o0i_JWvR1mIIQ.



Instagram: If YouTube is about video, then Instagram is about pictures (though it can also be used for video). HRLC uses Instagram to post "inspirational" pictures. Check them out at <https://www.instagram.com/holyredeemercr/>.



Twitter: Twitter is for sharing brief messages to connect people and share their thoughts. HRLC posts brief messages, often with links to other social media or news items. Follow us at <https://twitter.com/holyredeemerCR>

Senior Saints

No current activities scheduled. Watch your email, the website, and the newsletter for updates.

Senior Saints Coloring

Can't get out to share the fellowship of adult coloring? Are you still coloring at home? Please email photos of your beautiful art (even if you color outside the lines) to the church office. We'd be happy to share them to brighten the day of others.



No Fellowship Line Dancing in May

Look for future announcement from the Fellowship committee when line dancing and other events may resume.

In Our Prayers



The family of Francis "Fran" Ellis. Fran passed away on 23 April 2020 at The Gardens. Daughter-in-law, Becky Ellis, shared that Fran did not die from the virus, but passed peacefully as a result of another pre-existing medical condition. Arrangements are being handled by [Cedar Memorial](#).

Hospitalized Members

If you should become hospitalized, please remember to let the hospital know you are a member of Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church when you are admitted or have someone contact the office. While Pastor Jayne may not be able to visit, she can call and our prayer chain would be happy to keep you in prayer.

Should you need it, **Unity Point Clinic Westside Urgent Care on Edgewood Road SW has been converted to a Respiratory Illness Clinic.** Additionally, Unity Point Clinic Urgent Care is closed (Refer to [Gazette](#) or Unity Point for details.)



Youth News

Sunday School

With the suspension of activities in our building, we



look for other ways to engage our young people with God's Word. Tracy recommends Daily Audio Bible (found on both Google Play and Apple App stores). The main channel

includes readings from the Old Testament, New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs, followed by a short discussion or explanation. There is a separate channel specifically for kids. You may find this encouraging while away from church.

Contact Tracy Kisling at tjntracykisling@hotmail.com for more information.

Youth Activities

Our hearts and prayers go out to all school age youth (and their parents). Certainly, this will be a school year not soon forgotten. We hope that you are managing your remaining lessons – whether mandatory or voluntary – from home. We can only imagine (as we've not been through this ourselves) how much you miss your friends and social activities. We miss seeing you here and coming to see your events.

We want to make special recognition of those students who have or will be graduating this spring. While commencements may be postponed, you, your families, and your church know that you have accomplished much so far and will continue on to do great things in your future.

Congratulations to:

- Valarie Davidson (Mt. Mercy University)
- Ashby Renner (Kirkwood College)
- Hannah Van Buren (Wartburg College)
- Matt Hand (Kennedy High School)
- Jackson Sickelka (Kennedy High School)

Whatever you do, wherever you go, God is with you.

DUO (Do Unto Others) Day(s): Masks and Blankets

Quilt sewing days at the church may be suspended, but the Holy Redeemer DUO crew sews on. This page is dedicated to all those (known and unknown) that are filling the needs of others by sewing masks and blankets. We are also grateful to the “support teams” who donate materials, deliver masks, and help in other “non-sewing” capacities. Following are just a few pictures of many. **Thanks to you all!**



Figure 1: Jeri has sent masks to San Francisco and Scottsdale, AZ



Figure 2: Jeri even does cardinal & gold (I'm a proud recipient)



Figure 3: It takes a lot of elastic (I hear some men can no longer keep up their PJs)



Figure 4: Lois has sent masks to a FB friend in NC, her daughter at Homestead, relatives in AZ, and several to a former co-worker in Coralville. She also gave one to a stranger in Aldi's and a Pastor in Iowa City. She has delivered the rest to church.



Lutheran World Relief: 75,000 Mask Challenge

LWR is asking for masks to ship to vulnerable communities worldwide. You can help by sewing masks (they request bundles of 25) or making a monetary donation. Thrivent members can apply for funds to help with the cost of supplies and shipping. For details, see <https://lwr.org/masks>.

Thank you to Kelly Moritz for sharing this information and signing on to do 100 masks.

Fidget Blanket

Not all sewing is masks. Sharon Taylor shared this picture of fidget blanket she made for a friend who works in a nursing home to help an Alzheimer's resident stay occupied and calm. Sharon received flannel for the blanket from Shari Singelstad.



Figure 5: Fidget Blanket by Sharon

Delivery: Thanks to Marti Marz and Jackie Murphy for making local deliveries to hospitals, nursing homes, physical therapists, the sheriff's office, and HRLC members.

Note: All activities in our building are suspended through May 16; events beginning May 17 are tentative pending council evaluation on May 14.

Ministry of the Month

Greeter(s)	May 3	N/A
	May 10	N/A
	May 17	TBD
	May 24	TBD
	May 31	TBD
Ushers	May 3	N/A
	May 10	N/A
	May 17	TBD
	May 24	TBD
	May 31	TBD
Asst. Min.	May 3	Jack Hayes
	May 10	Jack Hayes
	May 17	TBD
	May 24	TBD
	May 31	TBD
Lay Reader	May 3	Jack Hayes
	May 10	Jack Hayes
	May 17	TBD
	May 24	TBD
	May 31	TBD
Com. Asst	May 3	N/A
	May 10	N/A
	May 17	TBD
	May 24	TBD
	May 31	TBD
Com. Runner	May 3	N/A
	May 10	N/A
	May 17	TBD
	May 24	TBD
	May 31	TBD
Counters	May 3	Susan Adams & Jeff Hand
	May 10	Susan Adams & Jeff Hand
	May 17	TBD
	May 24	TBD
	May 31	TBD
Com. Prep	May 3	N/A
	May 10	N/A
	May 17	(Tent) Le & Dick Smith
	May 24	(Tent) Jean Stelling
	May 31	(Tent) Laura Fowler
Altar Care: Judy Toy		
Visitor Calling Schedule: Jan Overland		

May 2020 at a Glance

May 3 (Sun)	9:00 am Worship (FB Live)
May 5 (Tues)	Bible Study (via email)
May 7 (Thur)	6:30 pm Executive Mtg (Zoom) Committees (TBD - chairpersons)
Happy Mother's Day!	
May 10 (Sun)	9:00 am Worship (FB Live) Food Bank Weekend
May 12 (Tues)	Bible Study (via email)
May 13 (Wed)	11:00 am Pastor & SM meeting (Zoom)
May 14 (Thu)	7:00 pm Council Meeting (Zoom)
May 17 (Sun)	9:00 am Worship (TBD)
May 18 (Mon)	6:00 pm Stephen Ministry
May 19 (Tue)	12:30 pm Card Players
	3:00 pm Bible Study
May 20 (Wed)	Newsletter Deadline
May 21 (Thu)	Mission of Hope Meal
May 23 (Sat)	Fellowship Hall Reserved
	9:00 am Worship (TBD)
May 24 (Sun)	4 th W/E Offer'g/American Cancer Society (ACS)
	Coffee with Council
May 25 (Mon)	Memorial Day – Office Closed
May 26 (Tues)	12:30 pm DUO Day
	3:00 pm Bible Study
May 28 (Thu)	11:30 am Women's Let's Do Lunch @ Q Dog
	9:00 am Worship
May 31 (Sun)	5 th W/E Offer'g/Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) United @ Kingston (postponed)

Future Events

- June 1:** 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision
- June 2:** 9:00 a.m. Staff meeting
12:30 p.m. Card Players
3:00 p.m. Bible Study
- June 3:** 6:00 p.m. Meal & Activity (tent)
7:00 p.m. Worship service (tent)
- June 4:** 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
6:30 p.m. Executive Meeting
7:00 p.m. Committee Meetings
- June 7:** 9:00 a.m. Worship
- June 9:** 3:00 p.m. Bible Study
- June 10:** 11:00 a.m. Pr. & SM meeting
6:00 p.m. Meal & Activity (tent)
7:00 p.m. Worship service (tent)
- June 11:** 9:30 a.m. WiGS
7:00 p.m. Council Meeting
- June 14:** Father's Day
9:00 a.m. Worship
Food Bank Weekend
- June 15:** 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision
- June 16:** 12:30 p.m. Card Players
3:00 p.m. Bible Study
- June 17:** 6:00 p.m. Meal & Activity (tent)
7:00 p.m. Worship service (tent)
- June 18:** Mission of Hope Meal
- June 20:** Newsletter Deadline
- June 21:** 9:00 a.m. Worship
- June 23:** 9:30 a.m. DUO Day
3:00 p.m. Bible Study
- June 24:** 6:00 p.m. Meal & Activity (tent)
7:00 p.m. Worship service (tent)
- June 25:** 11:30 a.m. Let's Do Lunch @ Emil's
- June 28:** 9:00 a.m. Worship
4th W/E offering – Ronald McDonald
Family Room @ Unity Point
St Luke's
Coffee with Council
- June 30:** 9:30 a.m. DUO Day
3:00 p.m. Bible Study
- July 2:** 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
6:30 p.m. Executive Meeting
7:00 p.m. Committee Meetings
- July 3:** Holiday – Office Closed
- July 4:** Independence Day
- July 5:** 9:00 a.m. Worship
- July 6:** 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision
- July 7:** 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
12:30 p.m. Card Players
3:00 p.m. Bible Study
- July 8:** 11:00 a.m. Pr. & SM meeting
6:00 p.m. Meal & Activity (tent)
7:00 p.m. Worship service (tent)
- July 9:** 9:00 a.m. Pastor Monthly Forum
9:30 a.m. WiGS
7:00 p.m. Council Meeting
- July 12:** 9:00 a.m. Worship
Food Bank Weekend
10:15 a.m. Fellowship
- July 14:** 3:00 p.m. Bible Study
- July 15:** 9:00 a.m. Sr Saints Coloring @ Scooters
6:00 p.m. Meal & Activity (tent)
7:00 p.m. Worship service (tent)
- July 16:** Mission of Hope Meal
- July 19:** 9:00 a.m. Worship
- July 20:** 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision
Newsletter Deadline
- July 21:** 12:30 p.m. Card Players
3:00 p.m. Bible Study
- July 22:** 6:00 p.m. Meal & Activity (tent)
7:00 p.m. Worship service (tent)
- July 23:** 11:30 a.m. Let's Do Lunch
3:30 – 6:00 p.m. Blood Drive @ HRLC
- July 26:** 9:00 a.m. Worship
4th W/E offering – Cedar Valley Habitat
for Humanity
Coffee with Council
- July 28:** 9:30 a.m. DUO Day
3:00 p.m. Bible Study
- July 29:** 6:00 p.m. Meal & Activity (tent)
7:00 p.m. Worship service (tent)



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Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Worship Services
Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.



*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!!!