



PARISH PARCHMENT



Holy Redeemer
Lutheran Church

www.holyredeemer.church

December 2016

Growing to and for Christ!

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My brothers and sisters in Christ,

Christmas is near! It's time for gingerbread houses, sledding, skiing, decorating our homes, putting up lights, putting up ornaments on our trees, drinking hot cocoa, and standing in line to see Santa. That last one is a new one for the Fish family, but it has now become a staple of this Christmas season.

I can finally share with people that I'm listening to Christmas music and not get weird looks. If I'm honest, I've been listening to Christmas music for the past 2 months. I just can't help it! I'm still a little kid at heart, because this is truly my favorite time of year!

Growing up, it was the presents that gave me excitement. It was the thought of what Santa might bring me. It was the new toy, shoes, clothes, and electronics that made me leap for joy. Over the years, that joy and excitement has shifted from presents to God's presence. It has moved to God's presence in Jesus. Because, truly there is no better gift we will ever receive than Jesus. It sounds cliché, but it is true.

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, ‘God is with us.’ –Matthew 1:23

God is with us in Jesus Christ. Jesus is the manifestation of God. He is the Word made flesh. He reveals the heart of God. And we celebrate that earth-changing, life-changing day within our history when Jesus was born to the virgin Mary.

Many of us have heard about Jesus' birth so many times that we start to see it more as a tale out of a children's book than a real historical event that happened within human history. This Christmas, I pray we hear again about greatest birth story that truly happened 2,000 years ago. I pray we hear again that Jesus was born to us.

Over these next few weeks of Advent, we prepare ourselves for the coming of our Savior. We wait in anticipation for the gift of Christ. And it all culminates on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, when we gather together to celebrate that Jesus is born. Born to you. To me. To ALL people.

Yes, we celebrate and sing praises for the fact that Jesus was born for us. It changes us to know Jesus thought of you when He was born. That Jesus not only thought of us but also our families and loved ones as well. Jesus was born to Kate. To Ellie. That fills me with hope and joy just thinking about that. I'm sure it does the same for you as you reflect about your family.

However, we must never forget that Jesus wasn't just a gift for you. Jesus was born for ALL people. You've heard me say it, but it's worth repeating. ALL doesn't have an asterisk in the Bible. There's not a different translation of the word 'all.' ALL means ALL. Period. That means people of all religions, all races, all ethnicities, all genders, all sexualities, all able and disabled. ALL. Period.

I pray and hope that we, as Church, may be moved by Jesus' birth. That it causes us to live differently. That it causes us to see differently. To see all people as beloved brothers and sisters of Christ. Because, the truth is Jesus was born to you and to me; however, Jesus was also born to and for ALL people.

As we approach Christmas, may the Good News of Jesus' birth bring you peace, hope and joy!

God bless you and all you do in the name of our newborn King, Jesus!

All my love,
Pat Fish

Outreach

Mission of Hope Meal

The Mission of Hope Meal will be served on December 15th by the congregation. The main dish will be scalloped potatoes and ham.

4th Sunday Offering

In December, our designated fourth Sunday offering will be on the *third* Sunday, December 18, as the fourth Sunday is on Christmas Day. The proceeds from the December Sunday offering will be designated for the Lutheran Chaplaincy Program at the University of Iowa Hospital.

Olivet Mission Christmas Families

Holy Redeemer will again purchase and deliver gifts to three families that are signed up through Olivet Mission.

The gift tags will be available beginning on Sunday, November 27. You will have until December 18 to purchase and deliver the gifts to the church.

December 18 is the absolute last day we will accept the gifts.

On Monday December 19, all are welcome to come at 10:00 a.m. and sort gifts. On Monday afternoon or Tuesday, December 20, we are asking for three families who are willing to deliver the gifts. (You will be given the names, addresses and phone numbers to call them and arrange for delivery) They need to be delivered to them no later than December 21.

If you would like to give gift cards, please either wrap them in a box or gift bag to make sure they get to the family safely. If you have any questions, please contact Shari Singelstad or any Outreach Member.

Adult News

Bazaar Follow-up Meeting

On December 4, at 11:00 a.m., following worship, a Bazaar Follow-up Meeting will be held.

Women's Bible Study

Bible Study will meet at the church on **Thursday, December 1, 9:30 a.m.**

The Bible Study is entitled *Advent Waiting "Who wants to be born in you?"* Scripture: *Psalm 46:10a "Be still, and know that I am God!"* (Copies are available in the WELCA notebook on the shelf under the women's bulletin board.) All are welcome to join us!!

WIGs (Book Discussion Group)

WIGs will meet on **Thursday, December 8, at 9:00 a.m., at Perkins on 33rd Ave. SW for breakfast.**

All women are invited – if you have a favorite Christmas book, bring it with you!

Thanks to Georgia Fuoto for making arrangements for breakfast. Copies of next year's reading list will be available.

Let's Do Lunch

The Fourth Thursday Out to Lunch Group
will meet on **Thursday, December 22**
11:30 a.m.

Marriott Hotel
(on Collins Rd. NE)

Please sign up on the bulletin board so
reservations can be made.

DUO (Do Unto Others) Day

The sewing group will meet at the church on **Tuesday, December 27, 9:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m.**

Thanks to all who help with this project. Come, join the women for sewing day – you can cut squares or tie or iron fabric if you don't wish to sew.

Poinsettias for Christmas

Poinsettias are a Holy Redeemer Christmas-time tradition. We will order them from Pierson's. The cost is \$10.50 each for a 6" pot with 4-6 blooms. The order forms will be in the bulletins soon. You may place your order and check in the offering plate or leave it in the office. Orders **MUST** be in by Sunday, December 18.

Hanging of the Greens

Have a flair for Christmas decorating? Can't wait to get in that holiday spirit? Then we have the perfect opportunity for you to serve your congregation and enjoy a morning doing something you love!

We will be having our annual "Hanging of the Greens" on Saturday morning, November 26, at 9:30 a.m. This is a chance for you to help us decorate our Nave in preparation for the celebration of Christ's birth.

We have many seasoned members available to guide and teach members young and old. It is important that we continue to have members that are familiar with this process for generations to come. We hope to see you there!

Blue Christmas Service

Join us on Sunday, December 4, at 5 p.m. for our Blue Christmas Service. The purpose of the service is to recognize that while many are excited by the new of our Savior's birth, there are others of us who are struggling this holiday season. We gather together during this service to acknowledge those feelings, to pray together and to remember Christ is our light that overcomes all darkness.

Marilyn Mark Retiring

I am sad to announce that I will be retiring from the position of Director of Music Ministries at the end of 2016.

I am scheduled to have a total hip replacement on January 9. I don't know how long healing will take or a return to driving or playing the organ to my standards. I also have several music composition and other projects I would like to get to, as well as obligations at my member church.

I intend to resume organ study, playing and substituting when I am able, so it's possible I might play at H.R. at some future date.

I do plan to keep in touch with the warm and caring members at H.R., so let's not say goodbye but rather "adieu".

Thank you all so much for the wonderful opportunity of serving God and you at Holy Redeemer these past few years – God bless you all!

Marilyn Mark

Farewell Reception for Marilyn Mark

Please join us on Sunday, December 18, after worship for a Godspeed and Farewell reception honoring our Director of Music Ministries, Marilyn Mark.

We, as a staff and congregation, are sad to see Marilyn retire. We wish her well in her next adventure beyond HRLC. We have been so blessed by her skills, leadership and presence.

The reception will include cake, coffee, punch and a time to honor Marilyn for all that she has done for our congregation.

Christmas Caroling

Join us on Wednesday, December 21, at 4:45 p.m. for Christmas Caroling. This is a Fellowship Event for all ages. We hope young and old can come together to sing Christmas Carols to our seniors at West Ridge and Prairie Hills. We will sing from 5-6 p.m. Following singing carols, we will have fellowship, cocoa, and treats from 6-7 p.m.

Christmas Musicians

As in the past, we are asking musicians to consider playing one or more music pieces for Christmas Eve or Christmas morning.

You can play with or without being accompanied. It could be a solo, duet, trio, small group, etc.

There are two Christmas Eve services and one on Christmas morning. You will have your choice to play one, two or all three services.

See Marilyn Mark or Pastor Fish by December 11 in order for us to have enough time to coordinate and practice.

Christmas Services

We will have Christmas Eve services at 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. on December 24. On Christmas Day, we will have a 9:00 a.m. service.

Sleep Out for the Homeless Update

Holy Redeemer has supported Sleep Out for the Homeless since 2009. This year the event was on October 29-30 at the Veterans Memorial Stadium, with record high temps 75/57 degrees.

This year, Holy Redeemer was top raiser and raised \$630.00 of the total \$4,140 raised for the Sleep-Out.

HRLC had a total of 17 sleepers and additional people who supported, stopped by and helped.

Holy Redeemer earned 4 awards:

- Oldest sleeper, Lee Eggers;
- Youngest sleeper, Eliot Myers.
- Top fundraiser, \$630.00 donated
- Silver Army Award, for donated tents

Thank you to all that helped, donated, contributed and made this another successful year. The theme this year was Noah's Ark, "together we make a difference". All the donated stuffed animals will be used to give a child that 'warm fuzzy' at night, but mostly to give hope and a smile. The people at the Sleep-Out organization loved it. Our church is amazing! Eliot Myers, who was so proud, won her first award ever, was beaming ear to ear, holding her trophy so tight close to her heart and said it best..." I want to share this with my church family"!

We share this with all of you, thank you together we made a difference!

Holiday Fair 2016

Our gratitude and thanks to ALL who assisted with the 2016 Holiday Fair and Bake Shoppe held in October.

Whether you were a vendor, setup/cleanup volunteer (thanks WINGS and confirmation for helping set up), fair worker, supplied baked goods (*and what a great variety – you bakers really came through this year!*) or simply attended, your efforts and your time were greatly appreciated. A special thanks to our "non-chairpersons" Marlyn and DeAnna. Thanks to Judith Edwards for making lunch for the workers for several years – we appreciated it very much! (Yes, you may retire!!)

If you're thinking about getting involved next year and have questions, talk to Shari Singelstad who will chair the bazaar in 2017. New ideas are always welcome. All are invited to participate in Craft Days at the church for making items for next year's Fair, which will be held **October 20 and 21**.

Proceeds from the 2016 Holiday Fair totaled **\$3539.32**, which will be divided: 60% to Grateful Grannies of Cedar Rapids and 40% to the Holy Redeemer Building Fund for reducing the principal on the mortgage. Submitted by Jeri Hansen

General and Building Fund Income Statement

October 2016 Summary

	Oct. 2016	Year-to-Date	
		2016	2015
General Income	\$14,294	\$140,128	\$127,156
General Expenses	\$13,948	\$136,642	\$129,867
Building Income	\$3,440	\$39,061	\$34,321
Building Expenses	\$3,406	\$35,260	\$35,793
Income vs Expenses	\$380	\$7,288	(\$4,184)
Total Budget	\$17,855	\$178,550	\$180,584
Income vs. Budget	(\$122)	\$639	(\$15,244)

October General Fund Income was \$769 short of Budget.

Building Fund Income was \$34 over Budget.

\$346.28 was moved from the General Fund to the Contingency Fund.

General Fund and Building Fund Income YTD is \$17,712 more than October YTD 2015.

4th Sunday Offering for Sleep Out for Homeless was \$230.00!

5th Sunday Offering for Lutheran Services in Iowa was \$356.00.

Food Bank Offering was \$213.59.

Youth News

Children's Christmas Program

This year's Children's Christmas Program is on Sunday, December 18. Directly following the Christmas Program will be the Cookie Walk! Parents, if you are interested in having your child participate in the Program, please talk to Nicole Hubbell or Pr. Fish.

"Ringing in the New Year" Youth Lock-In

When: Friday, December 30

Age Group: AK-4th - 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
5th-12th - 6:00 p.m.-8:00 a.m.

Please join us for fun, games, and food. We ask that you contribute a \$5.00 donation that will go towards our 2017 Sleep-Out for Homeless event. This donation is a reminder of how blessed we are to have a warm night stay and our way to give back and contribute.

You are welcome to bring a favorite game to share. Sleepers should bring overnight necessities (sleeping bag, pillow, tooth brush, etc.)

Important High Schoolers bring your ideas and calendars! We want your cool ideas that we can do together. We look forward to brainstorming, filling our calendars and building 2017 into a fun, giving, all about togetherness year!

Look for sign-up sheet soon! Any questions, contact Nicole Hubbell or Amy Renner (319)389-8885.

Dirty Feet Retreat

Every Spring, EWALU Bible Camp has a retreat called Dirty Feet Retreat for Middle School students. Next Spring, we will be sending our middle school students to the Dirty Feet Retreat. The retreat is March 31-April 2. We will have a short informational meeting and flyer available at the Youth Lock-In on Friday, December 30. We will hold a follow-up meeting for all MS parents and students on Wednesday, January 4, from 5:30-6:00 p.m. Any questions, please talk to Amy Renner.

High School Mission Trip

We are in the process of planning and finalizing details for our Summer 2017 High School Mission Trip. It will be open to grades 9-12. Graduating eighth graders as well as graduating seniors can attend the mission trip. We will have a short informational meeting and flyer available at the Youth Lock-In on Friday, December 30. We will hold our first formal Mission Trip meeting for our High School parents and students on Wednesday, January 4, from 6:30-7:00 p.m. Any questions, please talk to Pr. Fish.

Sunday School

Sunday School has begun for infants through 5th grade from 10:15 a.m. – 10:45 p.m.

Please consider inviting others with young children.

First Communion Update

On Sunday, November 6, our 1st Communion student was installed. Eliot Myers is in third grade and is the daughter of Jesse & Chris Myers.

Events

Save the Date

January 4: 5:30-6:00 p.m. Dirty Feet Retreat Mtg
6:30-7:00 p.m. Mission Trip Meeting

January 22: 11:30 a.m. Potluck Dinner
12:45 p.m. Annual Meeting

Stewardship News

Follow-up from Celebration Sunday

The Stewardship Committee thanks everyone who handed in their Time & Talent sheets and pledge cards. It's not too late to hand them in. You can drop them off at the office or put them in the collection plate. We are so grateful for such a giving and generous congregation.

Stewardship Committee Celebrates the Worship Committee

The Stewardship Committee is celebrating a specific ministry or committee each month in the newsletter.

The purpose is to show that your generous gifts allow us to achieve our mission of "growing to and for Christ."

Worship Committee

by Connie Hansen

The Worship Committee has had a busy year. Here are some of the things the committee has worked on:

- Scheduled ushers, lay readers, communion assistants and communion runners for all services
- Introduced Holden Evening Prayer as our Wednesday evening Lenten liturgy
- Assisted with hand washing during Maundy Thursday service
- Completed Performance Evaluation for Director of Music Ministries
- Participated in Stewardship Sunday
- Hired a brass quintet for pre-service and post service music and decorated nave and narthex for Reformation Sunday
- Held a Blessing of the Animals service on September 25
- Enhanced the Nave with seasonal décor for various seasons and church holidays
- Organized a survey of favorite congregation hymns and created a “go to” list of these for Pastor and Marilyn
- Marilyn hosted a W&M committee/Choir/Church musicians picnic 06/05/2016
- Approved updating to CCLI license to include all music (including contemporary hymns)
- Coordinated ordering/delivery/placement of Christmas and Easter plants

- Reserved Cherry Hill Pavilion for Outdoor worship 2017

Please contact the Worship Committee if you would like to be a member.

Merry Christmas!!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

From the staff at Holy Redeemer



Sleep Out for the Homeless





Ladies Luncheon at Kirkwood Hotel



Senior Saints Alley Walk



Celebration Sunday



Ministry of the Month		
Greeter	Dec. 4	Shari Singelstad
	Dec. 11	LaVonne Hunter
	Dec. 18	TBD
	Dec. 24	6 pm TBD 9 pm TBD
	Dec. 25	Jon Singelstad
Ushers	Dec. 4	Mark & Marti Marz
	Dec. 11	Jim Veglahn & Jon Singelstad
	Dec. 18	Greg & Kay Forest
	Dec. 24	6 pm Ron H., Jon S., Tom F. 9 pm Gordy & Jean Stelling
	Dec. 25	Gordy & Jean Stelling
Com. Asst	Dec. 4	Conrad V.Z.
	Dec. 11	Jodi Dufoe
	Dec. 18	Jodi Dufoe
	Dec. 24	6 pm Jeri Hansen 9 pm Mark Marz
	Dec. 25	TBD
Com Runner	Dec. 4	Shari Singelstad
	Dec. 11	Linda Singelstad
	Dec. 18	Judy Toy
	Dec. 24	6 pm Jodi Dufoe 9 pm Marti Marz
	Dec. 25	Jean Stelling
Lay Reader	Dec. 4	Marti Marz
	Dec. 11	Tammy Hansen
	Dec. 18	Evelyn Nuehring
	Dec. 24	6 pm Evelyn Nuehring 9 pm Tracy Kisling
	Dec. 25	Kate Fish
Acolyte	Dec. 4	Keri Ketchum
	Dec. 11	Ava Dufoe
	Dec. 18	Elise Dufoe
	Dec. 24	6 pm TBD 9 pm TBD
	Dec. 25	TBD
Counters	Dec. 4	Peggy Quandt & Brett Nitzschke
	Dec. 11	Jim Veglahn & Jodi Dufoe
	Dec. 18	Jodie Dufoe & Tammy Hansen
	Dec. 24	9 pm Tracy Kisling & Rollin Harder
	Dec. 25	TBD
Com. Prep	Dec. 4	Laura Fowler
	Dec. 11	Nicole Hubbell
	Dec. 18	LaVonne Hunter
	Dec. 24	6 pm Marti Marz 9 pm Le & Dick Smith
	Dec. 25	Jean Stelling
Altar Care: Ron & Jeri Hansen		
Visitor Calling Schedule: Lee Eggers		

December 2016 at a Glance	
Dec. 1 (Thu)	9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Executive Meeting 7:00 p.m. Committee Meetings
Dec. 4 (Sun)	9:00 a.m. Worship w/Cindy Breed preaching 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation 5:00 p.m. Blue Christmas Program
Dec. 6 (Tues)	12:30 p.m. Card Players 7:00 p.m. Adult Faith Formation
Dec. 7 (Wed)	4:45 p.m. WinGS 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:30 p.m. Adult Faith Formation
Dec. 8 (Thu)	9:30 a.m. WIGS 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting
Dec. 9 (Fri)	8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Faith Room reserved
Dec. 11 (Sun)	9:00 a.m. Worship Food Bank Weekend 2-4 p.m. S.S. Coloring @ Scooters Coffee 4:30 p.m. Staff Holiday Dinner in Walford
Dec. 13 (Tue)	7:00 p.m. Adult Faith Formation
Dec. 14 (Wed)	4:45 p.m. WinGS 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:30 p.m. Adult Faith Formation
Dec. 15 (Thu)	Mission of Hope Meal served by congregation
Dec. 16 (Fri)	12:50 p.m. Senior Saints movie at Collins Road Theater
Dec. 17 (Sat)	9:00 a.m. Rehearsal for Youth Christmas Program 12:00 p.m. Celebration of Life service for Wilma Clausen
Dec. 18 (Sun)	9:00 a.m. Youth Christmas Program 4 th Weekend Offering – Lutheran Chaplaincy 10:15 a.m. Cookie Walk
Dec. 19 (Mon)	10:00 a.m. Sort gifts for Olivet Christmas families
Dec. 20 (Tue)	12:30 p.m. Card Players 7:00 p.m. Adult Faith Formation January Newsletter Deadline Deliver gifts for Olivet families
Dec. 21 (Wed)	No WinGS due to Christmas Caroling 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling 6:00 p.m. Coffee & hot chocolate @ church
Dec. 22 (Thu)	11:30 a.m. Women's Let's Do Lunch @ Marriot
Dec. 24 (Sat)	6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
Dec. 25 (Sun)	9:00 a.m. Worship - Christmas Day
Dec. 26 (Mon)	Office closed for holiday
Dec. 27 (Tue)	9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. DUO Day 7:00 p.m. Bible Study
Dec. 28 (Wed)	No WinGS or Confirmation Class No Adult Faith Formation
Dec. 30 (Fri)	6:00 pm Youth Lock-In



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720 Edgewood Road NW
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52405

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Jon Singelstad

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Church Office Hours
Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – Noon

Worship Services
Sunday, 9:00 a.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!!!