



# PARISH PARCHMENT



Holy Redeemer  
Lutheran Church

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

February 2016

*Growing to and for Christ!*

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My brothers and sisters in Christ,

2016 is off and running. I want to begin by sharing how thankful I am to serve and work alongside such dedicated staff and lay leaders. There was a lot of work and hours put into assembling the reports and financials for the annual report. As expected, our Annual Meeting went by without a hitch. We all left feeling excited about what we accomplished in 2015 and excited about what God has in store for us in 2016. As Christians, we remember and believe that God is with us. That means that God is with us in the good in the bad; in the ups and the downs; in the valleys and the mountains; in

the light and the darkness.

One thing is for sure: God is alive and moving in our community! I look forward to our continued efforts in discerning together what God is calling us to in Cedar Rapids and beyond.

February marks the start of Lent and we begin Lent with Ash Wednesday, which is February 10. That evening, everyone will receive the sign of the cross and will hear the words, *"Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."* These words and the ashes remind us of our mortality. They embody the meaning of Lent.

Matthew Skinner writes, "We begin the season of Lent with smelly and greasy ash as a stark liturgical reminder of our flesh's dusty finitude. It will end with our feet or hands washed as we imagine the horrible sight of our Savior's body mangled on a cross. In between these points, Lent allows us to consider who we are and how God in the flesh encounters us."

Lent provides us an opportunity for intentional reflection. We reflect on our sinfulness, brokenness and humanness. We don't do this for the purpose of tearing ourselves down; instead, we do so to open ourselves up to the truth that we all NEED JESUS. Lent is a time we recognize our dependence on God's grace rather than on our own merits, works and deeds. It's the season where we admit our brokenness and receive our Savior.

Starting on Wednesday, February 17, we will begin our 5-week Mid-Week Lenten Series entitled *Open My Life, Lord*. Each week, our youth will lead us in Holden Evening Prayer, and the sermon will center on opening ourselves up to better encounter and experience Christ. This Lent, I pray you join me in this effort to open up our ears, eyes, hands, heart and life to Christ.

**"Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning. Rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing."**  
—Joel 2:12-13

This month we celebrate Epiphany and the Wise Men visiting and praying to baby Jesus. I think the story of the 3 Wise Men is a great example for us today. It's the story of 3 people looking and listening for God. It's the story of 3 people following Christ. It's the story of 3 people who don't just follow but also rejoice that they are a part of God's activity.

When you start looking and listening for God in your lives, don't be surprised to find God calling you to some pretty incredible things. And I promise that when you do join in God's work and activity, you, like the Wise Men, will be overwhelmed with joy.

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

All my love,  
Pat Fish

## **Outreach**

### **Crop Walk**

We finally got the official dollar amount raised for the 2015 CROP Walk held last October. We raised \$1,639.00 which is \$106.00 more than 2014. We also were the 4th highest among all of the churches that participated in the walk. We did a great job and we will be doing that walk again in October!

### **February Fourth Week Offering**

The Fourth Sunday Offering on February 28 will be going to the **Ronald McDonald House at St. Luke's in Cedar Rapids.**

### **Annual Fourth & Fifth Week Offerings**

The council has selected 12 organizations for the 4th Sunday Offering. Pastor is lining up speakers to come and talk about their organization during the month that we will collect money for them. If you have any questions about these organizations, please do not hesitate to ask Pastor, the council members or the Outreach Committee. Each month you will be informed of the group that we will be collecting for:

February-Ronald McDonald House in C.R.  
March –Mission of Hope  
April-Camp EWALU  
May- Relay for Life  
June-Habitat for Humanity  
July-Community Free Health Clinic  
August-Grateful Grannies  
September-Crop Walk  
October- Sleep Out for the Homeless  
November-Christmas Family Project w/Olivet Mission  
December –The Lutheran Chaplaincy

We will also collect money for four different organizations on the four fifth Sundays during the year. They are Walk for Water, Food for the Poor, Prison Congregations and the fourth organization has not been determined yet.

### **Mission of Hope Meal**

The next Mission of Hope meal will be served by the congregation on Thursday, February 18.

Ham and noodles will be served as the main meal.

Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex if you are able to provide food or help serve the meal. A reminder, we are now trying to provide food for 200 people.

### **Olivet Mission Christmas Families**

We received a note from Olivet Neighborhood Mission and the five families that we adopted for the Christmas Family project. They wanted to make sure they thanked us for our thoughtfulness and our gifts for all of the families.

I also want to thank everyone for all of the gifts that were given and distributed. I especially want to thank Tom Fruehling, Ron and Jeri Hansen, Shelly Davidson, Will Davidson, Val Davidson, Conrad Vande Zandschulp and Linda Singelstad in helping deliver these gifts to the families before Christmas. We hope that we will be able to help them next year.

## **Adult News**

### **Lenten Mid-Week Services**

Starting on Wednesday, February 17, we will begin our 5-week Lenten series entitled "Open my Life, Lord." Similar to previous years, the youth will be leading those 7:00 p.m. Wednesday evening services. This year, however, the youth will lead us in Holden Evening Prayer. It's a beautiful liturgy! The sermon series for those Mid-Week services will center around how we open ourselves up to experiencing and encountering Jesus in our lives.

We are still looking for youth to sign up for those services. Parents, please talk to Shelly Davidson about signing your child up to help out at one of the Lenten Mid-Week Services. Thank you!

## General and Building Fund Income Statement

### December 2015 Summary

	December 2015	Year-to-Date	December 2014
General Income	\$16,160	\$157,251	\$13,507
General Expenses	\$13,813	\$156,681	\$17,757
Building Income	\$2,846	\$38,826	\$3,960
Building Expenses	\$6,082	\$45,281	\$3,735
Income vs Expenses	(\$889)	(\$5,885)	(\$4,025)
Total Budget	\$18,057	\$216,700	\$17,512
Income vs. Budget	\$949	(\$20,623)	(\$45)

**4th Weekend Offering of \$252 to Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach.**

Expenses for year were \$5,885 more than Income.  
\$2,675 of Current Month Building Expenses for sidewalk repair.

## Women's News

**Bible Study will meet at the church on Thursday, February 4, 9:30 a.m.**

The Bible Study is entitled *Christian Citizenship 101*. Session #2: *Servant-shaped Soldiers* (Copies are available in the WELCA notebook on the shelf under the women's bulletin board.)

The theme verses can be found in Philippians 1:1-27-2:18.



Thanks to Laura Fowler for being the leader. You're welcome to join us!!

## WIGs (Book Discussion Group)

WIG's will meet on **Thursday, February 11 at 9:30 a.m. at the church. Le Smith is the hostess.**

The book for January month is "*Mr. Churchill's Secretary*" by Susan E MacNeal. Come and join us, even if you haven't read the book!

## Let's Do Lunch

*The Fourth Thursday Out to Lunch Group* will meet on **Thursday, February 25, 11:30 a.m.**

**16th Avenue Grill (on 16th Ave. SW)**

**Thanks for signing up on the bulletin board if you plan to attend.**

## DUO (Do Unto Others) Day

Meet at the church

Tuesday, February 23, 9:30 – 1:30.

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.

## Adult Choir

In February, we will resume Adult Choir. We practice after worship except for the 4<sup>th</sup> weekend of the month. Choir sings the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday's of the month.

## Youth News

## Youth Activities Calendar



**Parents**, there is a youth activity calendar located on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Fill in the activities your child is involved in.

The hope is to have members come out to support the GREAT things youth are involved in.

Thank you!

## 30 Hour Famine

This month, our youth will be participating in a great event called the 30 Hour Famine. For 30 hours, our middle and high school youth will be fasting in an effort to raise awareness about the problem of hunger still present within our world. This event will be held at the church on Friday, February 19- Saturday, February 20.

In addition to watching movies and playing fun games at this event, the youth will learn about how they can be a part of the solution to end hunger. If your middle or high school student is interested in this event, please talk with Pr. Fish.

## Holy Moly Sunday School

Our next Sunday School class will be **February 14**. Hope to see all the children's smiling faces.

Holy Moly Sunday School is normally the second Sunday of each month. In March, Holy Moly Sunday School will be the third Sunday, March 20.

## Youth Choir

The youth will be singing on Sunday, February 14. Parents, please have your child at the church by 8:30 a.m. to do one last run through.

## Events

### Valentine's Dinner & Game Show

Our Annual Valentine's Dinner and Newlywed Game evening is happening this month. The dinner will be Sunday, February 21, from 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Pictures will be taken beginning at 5:00 p.m. Dinner will include pasta, with or without chicken, red or white sauce; salad; bread; and dessert. Youth are welcome to attend; they will be dining together (separate from adults). Free will offering is asked for youth.

Tickets are \$7.50 per person or \$15.00 per couple. If you need a night out with a great meal, wonderful servers and awesome entertainment, then this is the event for you. Look for ticket sales to start soon. All proceeds will be going towards the Youth Fund.

## Save the Date

**February 10:** 7:00 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Worship Service

**February 13:** 9:00 a.m.-Noon – Council Retreat

**February 15:** 6:30 p.m. YoungLife Meeting offsite

**February 17:** 5:45 p.m. - Lenten Meal  
7:00 p.m. - Lent Worship Service

**February 19:** Noon - 30 Hour Famine Event begins (meet at church at 5:00 p.m.)

**February 20:** 6:00 p.m. - 30 Hour Famine event ends at IHOP

**February 21:** 5:00-7:00 p.m. - Valentine's Dinner & Game Show

**February 24:** 12:30 p.m. Craft Day  
5:45 p.m. - Lenten Meal  
7:00 p.m. - Worship Service

**March 2:** 5:45 p.m. - Lenten Meal  
7:00 p.m. - Worship Service

**March 9:** 5:45 p.m. - Lenten Meal  
7:00 p.m. - Worship Service

**March 11:** 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. - Blood Drive @ Gloria Dei

**March 16:** 5:45 p.m. - Lenten Meal  
7:00 p.m. - Worship Service

**March 20:** 10:30 am - Holy Moly Sunday School & Easter Egg Hunt

**March 24:** 7:00 p.m. - Maundy Thursday Worship

**March 25:** Good Friday Worship

**March 27:** Youth Easter Brunch and Easter Service

## WinGS Dinner Table on January 27

(Thank you Jan!)





# **Stewardship News**

## **Stewardship Committee Celebrates Pastoral Care**

The Stewardship Committee is starting something new for the newsletter. Each month we will be celebrating a specific ministry or committee. The purpose is to show that your generous gifts allow us to achieve our mission of “growing to and for Christ.” Your giving each week enables our committees, staff and pastor to participate in God’s ministry. This month we are highlighting how your contributions allow the pastor and lay leaders to provide Pastoral Care to our members.

### **Pastoral Care**

Sent in by: Pastor Fish

**Jethro asked Moses, “What is this you are doing for the people? Why do you sit alone, while making the people stand around you from morning until evening? Moses answered Jethro, “Because the people come to me to inquire of God. When they have a dispute, they come to me and I decide between one person and another, and I make known to them the instructions of God.” Jethro said to him, “What you are doing is not good. You will surely wear yourself out, both you and these people with you. For the task is too heavy for one person; no one can do it alone. Now listen to me. You should represent the people before God and bring their cases before God. Teach them the ways of our Lord. But, you should also look for able men and women. Let them help you. It will be easier for you and they will help you bear the burden. If you do this, then you will endure and all the people will go to their home in peace.” –Exodus 18:14-23**

I continue to come back to Jethro’s advice to Moses. I apply it to my role as pastor at Holy Redeemer and I believe it is advice all of us can apply to our lives.

Often we try to take on tasks alone. Rather than asking for help or empowering others, we convince ourselves that “it” would get done faster and “it” would be done better if I should just did “it” myself. I am general on purpose, because your “it” may differ from my “it” or another person’s “it.” The

purpose is that this passage from Scripture hopefully points out that nothing was ever intended to be done alone.

This includes pastoral care. I view everything that I do as pastoral care. From my sermons to my weekly phone calls to my home or hospital visits. All of it is pastoral care and it continues to be my top priority. Nevertheless, pastoral care is not just something I do. It’s something we all do together.

I continue to be blown away by how loving and caring this congregation truly is. It’s not something I have to cultivate. It was present before me. It’s present now and I’m sure it will be present for years to come.

Throughout the year, our congregational care team provides meals, rides and does home projects for folks. Countless times in this past year, our youth leaders organized other adults and youth to send a thoughtful gift to those in the hospital or who were ill. We have two dedicated ladies who regularly visit and meet with members. People are always emailing and calling the office to make sure that our staff knows if a friend or family member could use a visit. All of this is pastoral care.

This year, I am excited that we will begin steps towards making Holy Redeemer a Stephen’s Ministry congregation. Stephen’s Ministers are members who are trained listeners. Each Stephen’s Minister is assigned one care-receiver and they develop a relationship with that individual. Consider being a Stephen’s Minister in 2016. If you have questions about Stephen’s Ministry, please talk to me.

The Church isn’t about programs. It’s about people. Building and sustaining relationships is not only what we do; it’s who we are called to be.

Thank you for all you do in helping me bear the burdens! Thank you for your generosity that allows me to visit the sick and provide healing in times of crisis.

## **Vanco is Available**

Vanco is a system that allows you to have your offerings transferred from your bank account to the church’s account automatically.

If you would like to sign up for Vanco, the paper work is on the table in the narthex under the TV. See Donna Madsen with any questions.

## Ministry of the Month

<b>Greeter:</b>	<b>Feb. 7</b>	Jon Singelstad
Ash Wed.	<b>Feb. 10</b>	Jan Overland
	<b>Feb. 14</b>	Ashley Doser
	<b>Feb. 21</b>	Jan Overland
	<b>Feb. 28</b>	Jon Singelstad
<b>Ushers:</b>	<b>Feb. 7</b>	Greg & Kay Forest
Ash Wed.	<b>Feb. 10</b>	Conrad V. & Tom Fruehling
	<b>Feb. 14</b>	Jake Hansen & Ron Hansen
	<b>Feb. 21</b>	Jim Veglahn & Harold Miller
	<b>Feb. 28</b>	Conrad V. & Tom Fruehling
<b>Com. Asst:</b>	<b>Feb. 7</b>	Ron Taylor
Ash Wed.	<b>Feb. 10</b>	Jeri Hansen
	<b>Feb. 14</b>	Jodi Dufoe
	<b>Feb. 21</b>	Ron Taylor
	<b>Feb. 28</b>	Connie Hansen
<b>Com. Run:</b>	<b>Feb. 7</b>	Connie Hansen
Ash Wed.	<b>Feb. 10</b>	Jodi Dufoe
	<b>Feb. 14</b>	Jeri Hansen
	<b>Feb. 21</b>	Judy Toy
	<b>Feb. 28</b>	Jean Stelling
<b>Lay Reader:</b>	<b>Feb. 7</b>	Marti Marz
Ash Wed.	<b>Feb. 10</b>	Mike Kasper
	<b>Feb. 14</b>	Evelyn Nuehring
	<b>Feb. 21</b>	Ashley Doser
	<b>Feb. 28</b>	Evelyn Nuehring
<b>Acolyte:</b>	<b>Feb. 7</b>	Sam Gilbert
Ash Wed.	<b>Feb. 10</b>	TBA
	<b>Feb. 14</b>	Courtney Hubbell
	<b>Feb. 21</b>	Keri Ketchum
	<b>Feb. 28</b>	Jordan Renner
<b>Counters:</b>	<b>Feb. 7</b>	Rick Renner & John Quandt
Ash Wed.	<b>Feb. 10</b>	Rollin Harder & Jodi Dufoe
	<b>Feb. 14</b>	Daphne Miller & Jodi Dufoe
	<b>Feb. 17</b>	Rollin Harder & Jodi Dufoe
	<b>Feb. 21</b>	Jim Veglahn & Janice Klein
	<b>Feb. 24</b>	Jodi Dufoe & Sara Merkey
	<b>Feb. 28</b>	Susan Hand & Connie Hansen
<b>Com. Prep:</b>	<b>Feb. 7</b>	Marti Marz
Ash Wed.	<b>Feb. 10</b>	Le & Dick Smith
	<b>Feb. 14</b>	Jean Stelling
	<b>Feb. 21</b>	Laura Fowler
	<b>Feb. 28</b>	Nicole Hubbell

**Altar Care:** Sherri Webster

**Visitor Calling Schedule:** Arlan Braun

## February 2016 at a Glance

<b>Feb. 2 (Tues)</b>	<b>10:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m.</b> Pastor has a meeting at Synod <b>12:30 p.m.</b> Card Players
<b>Feb. 3 (Wed)</b>	<b>9:00 am</b> Staff Meeting <b>3:50 p.m.-6:30 p.m.</b> WinGS <b>6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.</b> Confirmation Class
<b>Feb. 4 (Thur)</b>	<b>Pastor @ conference</b> <b>9:30 a.m.</b> Women's Bible Study <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Executive Meeting <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Committee Meetings
<b>Feb. 5 (Fri)</b>	<b>Pastor @ conference</b>
<b>Feb. 6 (Sat)</b>	<b>Pastor @ conference</b>
<b>Feb. 7 (Sun)</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. Worship w/Pr. Roger McKinstry and Adult Choir</b> <b>10:15 a.m.</b> Adult Choir <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Adult Forum <b>11:30 a.m.</b> Ed & Youth Committee Mtg. <b>Pastor @ conference</b>
<b>Feb. 8 (Mon)</b>	<b>Pastor @ conference</b>
<b>Feb. 10 (Wed)</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> No WinGS or Confirmation Class <b>7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service</b>
<b>Feb. 11 (Thur)</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> WIG's <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Council Meeting
<b>Feb. 12 (Fri)</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.</b> Fellowship Hall & Classroom reserved
<b>Feb. 13 (Sat)</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.-Noon</b> Council Retreat
<b>Feb. 14 (Sun)</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. Worship w/Youth Choir</b> Food Bank Weekend <b>10:15 a.m.</b> Adult Choir <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Sunday School & Adult Forum
<b>Feb. 16 (Tues)</b>	<b>12:30 p.m.</b> Card Players
<b>Feb. 17 (Wed)</b>	<b>3:50 p.m.-5:30 p.m.</b> WinGS <b>5:30 p.m.-6:15 p.m.</b> Confirmation Class <b>5:45 p.m.</b> Lenten Meal <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Worship Service
<b>Feb. 18 (Thur)</b>	Mission of Hope Meal
<b>Feb. 19 (Fri)</b>	30 Hour Famine begins at noon (5pm @ HR)
<b>Feb. 20 (Sat)</b>	30 Hour Famine ends at 6:00 p.m. at IHOP March Newsletter Deadline
<b>Feb. 21 (Sun)</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. Worship w/Adult Choir</b> <b>10:15 a.m.</b> Adult Choir <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Adult Forum & Fellowship Mtg <b>5:00-8:00 p.m.</b> Valentine Dinner & Game Show
<b>Feb. 23 (Tues)</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.</b> DUO Day
<b>Feb. 24 (Wed)</b>	<b>12:30 p.m.</b> Craft Day <b>3:50 p.m.-5:30 p.m.</b> WinGS <b>5:30 p.m.-6:15 p.m.</b> Confirmation Class <b>5:45 p.m.</b> Lenten Meal <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Worship Service
<b>Feb. 25 (Thur)</b>	<b>11:30 a.m.</b> Women's Let's Do Lunch at 16 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Grill
<b>Feb. 28 (Sun)</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. Worship w/Temple Talk (RMH)</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Offering to Ronald McDonald House @ St. Lukes <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Adult Forum Coffee with Council



## Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church

720 Edgewood Road NW

Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52405

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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!!!*