



PARISH PARCHMENT



Holy Redeemer
Lutheran Church

www.holyredeemer.church

Growing to and for Christ!

May 2021

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From the reading for the Day of Pentecost:

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. 15 Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. 16 No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

17 'In the last days it will be, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

18 Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit;

and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

and they shall prophesy. (Acts 2:14-18 NRSV)

Dear Beloved Community of HRLC,

As we slip into the month of May, memories of past May Day and Mother's Day celebrations may come to fore. I noticed that folks around our town and beyond are recalling the happier times when folks could be together more fully, completely and without fear of contracting a deadly virus. Those photos and memories are precious. Now, as the days are getting warmer and more and more folks are getting vaccinated, there's a sense of joy and anticipation in the air. More people are traveling and grandparents are posting photos of themselves being able to hug their beloved grandchildren after over a year apart. Alleluias truly are abounding and resounding this Easter season. In keeping with the joy of doing more things out of doors, on May 2nd, since it was a bit chilly on April 25th, we'll re-do the 5:00 pm Biking and Hiking Buddies at Cedar Lake (see details on page 4).

Here, at HRLC, there has been much rejoicing as folks are returning to in-person worship, as they feel safe to do so. It's been wondrous and a delight to see friends, who haven't seen each other in over a year, greet one another with smiling eyes, elbow bumps and good cheer! We have much to be thankful for and I'm so very grateful to hear from you and to see you. It seems to me that May Day celebrations that you might enact in your neighbor would bring cheer and smiles to your neighbors and friends. If you feel inspired to do so, perhaps fill a small paper cup with treats and go door to door saying hello to folks. Small acts of kindness, shared with God's love, spread joy and happiness.

We'll again have an opportunity spread joy and to celebrate with our high school graduates with a "Grad Caravan." This was so much fun last year and we're gearing up to do so again as we check in with the families and their plans. Last year we decorated the vehicles, gathered up cards for the grads and drove by their homes. Most likely we'll be gathering on the afternoon of May 22nd to travel to bring joy and cheer to many of these young people: Will Davidson, Lucas Kasper, Sam Gilbert, Delaney Holtey, Allison Hubbell, and Jordan Renner (see page 5 in the newsletter for details about the days and times of the graduations). We'll be mapping out a route. Please mark your calendars for that day and look for details in emails. We also hope to pair drivers with those who'd like to participate but would rather not drive. We can do this safely now with vaccinated folks.

The next day, May 23rd, is the Day of Pentecost and we'll be celebrating the birthday of the Church with the coming of the Holy Spirit. Whether you're joining us online or in person, you're invited to wear something red since that is the liturgical color of the day! While the Day of Pentecost has often been Confirmation Sunday at HRLC, we'll be celebrating with our Confirmands, Beth Fowler, Bryan Kisling and Quincy Gilbert, and their families on June 20th. Watch for more details about that special day in emails and the June Parchment.

Blessings, joy and resounding Easter alleluias to you all!

Pastor Jayne

Council Corner

Holy Redeemer's Council met on Thursday, April 8. (Meeting minutes were previously sent via email or postal mail.) Here are a few highlights:

Easter Egg Hunt: See details on page 6.)

Finances: During the month of March, we exceeded our total budgeted income goal by \$4,007. This included a general fund excess of \$1,951 and a building fund excess of \$2,056. Monthly budgeted general fund income for 2021 is \$15,591. Year to date we still have a significant deficit of \$15,062.

Tithe.ly: To accommodate friends and remote donors, a Tithe.ly online giving account has been setup. Jeff Hand and the tech task force are reviewing the rollout process recommended by Tithe.ly. More details will follow via email or May newsletter.

In-Person Worship: We have had between 19 and 24 people in the sanctuary on Sundays to this point. If you are fully vaccinated and interested in returning to in-person worship, please leave word with the church office.

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting is Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 7:00 pm (via Zoom).

SE Iowa Synod

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

April Mission of Hope

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

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

The next Mission of Hope will be **Thursday, May 20**. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Linn Community Food Bank

Our next Food Bank weekend (2nd Sunday of the month) is scheduled for May 9. We continue to thank you, as does Linn Community Food Bank, for your generous donations.

4th Sunday Offering

In May, our designated fourth Sunday offering is scheduled for May 23. The proceeds from this offering will go to **American Cancer Society – Relay for Life**.

“Relay For Life is a 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

As May has five Sundays, a 5th Sunday offering is scheduled for May 30. The proceeds will go to Lutheran Services in Iowa. (See article on page 4.)
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 ELCA will serve as Jesus served. 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

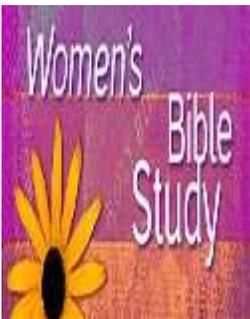
To donate to America Cancer Society – Relay for Life, Lutheran Services in Iowa, Linn Community Food Bank, Mission of Hope, or other community partners, simply indicate on your offering envelope, the memo line of your check, or in a separate note. Counters will ensure it gets the proper designation and funds will be sent to the organizations. Thank you for your generous support.

Adult News

Congratulations Arlan Braun

United Way of East Central Iowa awarded Arlan with a Lifetime of Service Award. This award “honors and celebrates an individual who has shared their skills through volunteering and positively impacted the community throughout their lifetime.” You can read more about Arlan’s service in his finalist highlight at <https://blog.uweci.org/2021-lifetime-of-service-volunteer-award-finalists>. Congratulations and thank you for your service Arlan!

Women’s Bible Study



Bible Study will meet at church on Thursday, May 6 at 9:30 am. The study (devotional) is: *“The Journey of Generations – Waiting to be unwrapped.”* Bible passages are: Luke 1:46-49; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; Ephesians 2:19; and Acts 2:4-6.

(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.

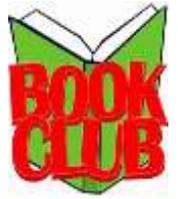
Social distancing and wearing masks will be practiced.

Let’s Do Lunch

*Thursday, May 27 – 11:30 am
Location to be announced in the bulletin
Hopefully on a patio outdoors!*

WIGS (Book Discussion Group)

WIGS will meet at the church on Thursday, May 13 at 9:30 am. The book for May is *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger. Come join us for a lively discussion. Social distancing and wearing of masks will be practiced.



DUO (Do Unto Others) Day



DUO will meet at the church on Tuesday, May 25 from 9:00–11:30 a.m. Come help tie or pin quilts together. Social distancing and wearing of masks will be practiced.

Technology Task Force

This new task force met for a second time on Thursday, April 22. Topics of discussion revolved around five major areas: (1) status of prior action items; (2) the ELCA Open Doors grant; (3) video camera(s) and editing software, (4) new computer for Pastor and a second dedicated to handling audio, video, and casting to the sanctuary/narthex monitors; and (5) website and social media updates.

A Tithe.ly online giving account has been set up for Holy Redeemer with information to be rolled out to the congregation as we get up to speed with its use.

The ELCA is offering Open Door grants for congregations “interested in **meeting new people** as we transition into a time of regathering in physical spaces.” While this grant may lean more to Outreach, we discussed in terms of our ability to use technology to meet new people and share with the broader community. Examples include the Easter egg hunt and grad caravans.

Pastor’s computer has reached the end of its useful life. It is an old Windows 7 desktop with limited ability to update and no Microsoft support. The group discussed what type of computer Pastor might be interested in, narrowing down to a laptop or Microsoft Surface.

In addition to these items, we will be looking at ways to better integrate video and social media into our website so that the website becomes the first place to go. One example would be to include the latest worship video in a box on the home page rather than directing folks to YouTube.

If you are interested in helping this task force or have ideas to share, please contact chairperson, Chris Beyer, administrative assistant (and task force member), Jeff Hand, or council president, Aaron Giese.

The group will meet regularly on the third Thursday of the month. The next meeting is scheduled for May 20 at 7:00 pm.

Biking and Hiking Buddies Re-Do

Bring your bike (weather permitting*) and/or your walking shoes to meet up at Cedar Lake on May 2 at 5:00 pm. Please make sure to bring your bandanas or masks. We'll meet at the pavilion that's on Shaver Road and H Avenue. If there's no parking at the lot near the pavilion, park on the street. We'll organize groups to walk or ride around the lake, and take in the sights. Please bring some money in case we grab a snack at an outdoor restaurant, like the Sag Wagon. The trail around the lake is fairly flat, so it's an easier ride/walk for all. *If the weather is bad, we'll pick a day in June! If this is something people like to do, we could schedule a *Biking and Hiking Buddies* crew on a more regular basis. Celebrate the Earth and May Day! Get a little exercise and have fun!



Figure 1: Cedar Lake at Night

Happy Mother's Day!

Mother's Day is a time to celebrate the strong, loving women in your life. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we see thousands of Iowa moms through their journey to build the brightest future for their children.



We see moms turning to LSI Behavioral Health Intervention Services to ensure their child is receiving the coping skills and behavioral supports they need to thrive. In our Early Childhood

Services, we see first-time moms who are eager to join our parenting education classes and support groups. In 2020, LSI's Early Childhood programs provided support to more than 1,097 families of young children. We are so inspired to hear their stories and see their hard work pay off as they raise our next generation.

As you celebrate Mother's Day this year, remember how many Iowa moms are being empowered because of your support. If you are looking for a way to honor your mother this year, please consider making a gift in her name to LSI. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Learn more at LSIowa.org and Facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Wrapping Care Around Iowa Children

Martha and Marti first became foster parents in September of 2018, after their biological children expressed that they wanted to provide foster care as a family. They decided to become licensed through LSI Foster Care and Adoption and soon after, they welcomed a sibling group of three into their home. "Our kids really wanted to look into foster care as a way to be able to help others as a family," Martha says. "Everybody had to sacrifice and pour in, and everybody was needed and brought something to the table."

The siblings stayed with the family for almost two years, until the opportunity came for them to find a forever home through adoption. Over the years, the siblings had become bonded to Martha and Marti, as well as their extended family and friends. The siblings are currently in the process of officially being adopted by a family close to Martha and Marti, so they can continue to stay connected to the important relationships they built in foster care. The family has found a passion they can all share, and it's making a difference in the lives of Iowa children.

"We always explain fostering as 'good' and 'hard.' You never want to take one away from the other, because it's both. It's the hardest thing we've ever done, but it's the best thing we've done," Martha says. "We've had the privilege of having the kids in our home and you have the responsibility and the privilege to take care of them in their time of need."

Youth News

High School Graduate Gift Application Letters

This year we had six outstanding high school graduates eligible for a graduate gift from Holy Redeemer! The graduates are: Will Davidson, Lucas Kasper, Sam Gilbert, Delaney Holtey, Allison Hubbell, and Jordan Renner. Below is the letter of application from Delaney Holtey:

Delaney Holtey
April 1, 2021

I am graduating from John. F Kennedy High School and will be attending The University of Iowa to continue my soccer career and major in Health and Human Physiology!

Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church means a lot to me and has taught me so much about how I can grow into my faith. The atmosphere and community the church provides for its young members is incredibly valuable, especially as those young impressionable kids grow into their communities. Holy Redeemer has allowed me to expand my knowledge about our Lord and helped me understand what being a Christian means and how I can apply my faith into my everyday life and others lives.

As I go through life, I plan on engaging with my faith everyday, and Holy Redeemer has made that possible for me through the lessons I've learned and been taught. I will try my best to have a positive mindset throughout my best and worst moments, and through those worst moments I will always know that God is with me and watching over me. When faced with adversity, not only in the past year, but in the future as well I will always keep in mind God's plan and that He is the creator of my life. I trust Him and pray to Him when I am unsure and unhappy. I do this for others as well. When I know someone's struggles I pray for them, and I know God can hear those prayers. As I move into the next chapter of my life, I remind myself that I cannot ask or demand change from God, but I can ask for strength and hope so that I can better the situation around me.

I am so thankful for the Holy Redeemer family that has been built over the years and I appreciate everything I have learned and the relationships that have been built! I am incredibly excited for this next chapter in my life and I know I have a great support system around me and God watching over me!

Editor's note: For more on Delaney, see the Gazette article posted on the bulletin board.

Delaney Holtey

Graduation Ceremonies

Sunday, May 23, 2:00 pm: Benton Community - **Sam**

Thursday, May 27, 7:00 pm: Cedar Rapids Kennedy –**Will, Delaney, Allison, and Jordan**

Saturday, May 29, 12:30 pm: Cedar Rapids Prairie –**Lucas**

Other graduation ceremonies will take place on:

- Friday, May 28 – Cedar Rapids Washington
- Saturday, May 29 – Cedar Rapids Metro
- Saturday, May 29 - Cedar Rapids Jefferson

Graduates and their guests are required to wear masks and socially distance. Seating capacity is limited, but graduation ceremonies will be live streamed. The ceremonies for Kennedy, Washington, and Jefferson will be held in the Alliant Energy PowerHouse, formerly known as the U.S. Cellular Center.

Pictures

Easter Egg Hunt: Kudos to Aaron Giese and Tracy Kisling for putting together a fun event that attracted 21 kids and 9 families interested in Sunday School and attending church.



Figure 2: Jackie and the Gieses



Figure 5: A full basket

Friends at Good Shepherd Sunday

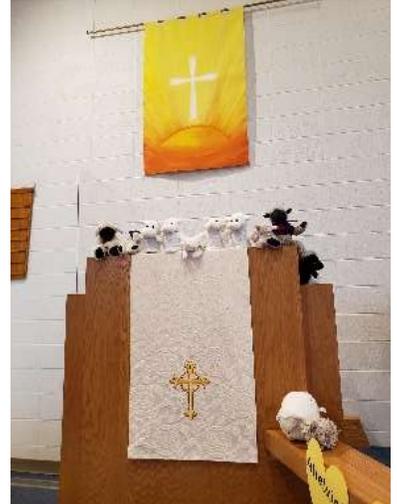


Figure 3: Beyond the reflection is an Easter Welcome



Figure 6: Crosses made from palm branches



Figure 4: A trail of eggs leads the way



Figure 7: Altar on Easter Sunday



Ministry of the Month

New Sign-Up Sheets

New sign-up sheets will be posted (by Sunday, May 2) on the table below the monitor in the narthex. We are currently in need of greeters, ushers, and counters. As safety guidelines allow, we will begin to add Lay Readers and eventually communion assistants.

If you would like to sign up for this Sunday (May 2), please contact the office. Feel free to leave a voice message or email Jeff at secretary@holyredeemer.church.

Greeter(s)	May 2	Contact office
	May 9	Sign up or contact office
	May 16	Sign up or contact office
	May 23	Sign up or contact office
	May 30	Sign up or contact office
Ushers	May 2	Contact office
	May 9	Sign up or contact office
	May 16	Sign up or contact office
	May 23	Sign up or contact office
	May 30	Sign up or contact office
Asst. Min.	May 2	Nicholas Hand
	May 10	Tracy Kisling
	May 17	Tracy Kisling
	May 24	Tracy Kisling
	May 31	Tracy Kisling
Counters	May 2	Contact office
	May 9	Sign up or contact office
	May 16	Sign up or contact office
	May 23	Sign up or contact office
	May 30	Sign up or contact office

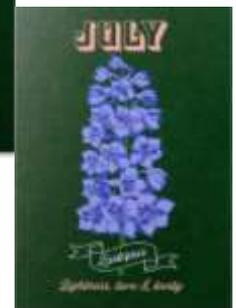
Altar Care: Laura Fowler

Visitor Calling Schedule: TBD

Altar Flowers

If you would like to provide flowers for the altar, you may sign up on the “flower chart.” The flower chart is a large poster on the bulletin board near the visitor registry. You may also contact the office.

Birth month flowers:



Future Events

(All Events Tentative and Subject to Change)

May 2021

May 1 (Sat) 4:30 pm Worship rehearsal
May 2 (Sun) **9:00 am Worship**
 5:00 pm Bike & Hike Buddies
 at Cedar Lake
May 4 (Tue) 3:00 pm Bible Study *
May 5 (Wed) 1:00 pm Staff meeting
May 6 (Thu) 9:30 am Women's Bible Study
 6:30 pm Executive Committee *
 7:00 pm Committee Meetings
May 8 (Sat) 4:30 pm Worship rehearsal
May 9 (Sun) **Mother's Day**
9:00 am Worship
 Food Bank Weekend
May 11 (Tue) 3:00 pm Bible Study *
May 13 (Thu) 9:30 am Book Group
 7:00 pm Council Meeting *
May 15 (Sat) 4:30 pm Worship rehearsal
May 16 (Sun) **9:00 am Worship**
May 18 (Tue) 12:30 pm Card Players #
 3:00 pm Bible Study *
May 20 (Thu) **Newsletter Deadline**
 Mission of Hope Meal
 7:00 pm Tech Task Force *
May 21 (Fri) 4:30 pm SE Iowa synod assembly *
May 22 (Sat) 8:00 am SE Iowa synod assembly *
 Grad Caravan (details to come)
 4:30 pm Worship rehearsal
May 23 (Sun) **Pentecost** (wear red)
9:00 am Worship
 4th W/E offering – American Cancer Soc
May 25 (Tue): 9:30 am DUO Day
 3:00 pm Bible Study *
May 27 (Thu): 11:30 am Let's Do Lunch @ TBD
May 29 (Sat) 4:30 pm Worship rehearsal
May 30 (Sun) **9:00 am Worship**
 5th W/E offering – LSI
May 31 (Mon) **Memorial Day**
 Office closed

June 2021

Jun 1 (Tue) 3:00 pm Bible Study *
Jun 2 (Wed) 1:00 pm Staff meeting
Jun 3 (Thu) 9:30 am Women's Bible Study
 6:30 pm Executive Committee *
 7:00 pm Committee Meetings
Jun 5 (Sat) 4:30 pm Worship rehearsal
Jun 6 (Sun) **9:00 am Worship**
Jun 8 (Tue) 3:00 pm Bible Study *
Jun 10 (Thu) 9:30 am Book Group
 7:00 pm Council Meeting *
Jun 12 (Sat) 4:30 pm Worship rehearsal
Jun 13 (Sun) **9:00 am Worship**
 Food Bank Weekend
Jun 15 (Tue) 12:30 pm Card Players #
 3:00 pm Bible Study *
Jun 17 (Thu): Mission of Hope Meal
 7:00 pm Tech Task Force *
Jun 19 (Sat) 4:30 pm Worship rehearsal
Jun 20 (Sun) **Father's Day**
9:00 am Worship
Confirmation: Beth, Bryan, Quincy
Jun 21 (Mon): **Newsletter Deadline**
Jun 22 (Tue): 9:30 am DUO Day
 3:00 pm Bible Study *
Jun 24 (Thu): 11:30 am Let's Do Lunch @ TBD
Jun 26 (Sat) 4:30 pm Worship rehearsal
Jun 27 (Sun) **9:00 am Worship**
 4th W/E offering – Ronald McDonald
 Family Room @ Unity Point/St Luke's
Jun 29 (Tue) 3:00 pm Bible Study *

Legend

* - Virtual event (Zoom, email, etc.)
 # - Placeholder only (not yet regathering)



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

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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!!!