



PARISH PARCHMENT



Holy Redeemer
Lutheran Church

www.holyredeemer.church

April 2021

Growing to and for Christ!

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Supposing [Jesus] to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her. John 20:15b-18 NRSV

Dear Beloved Community of HRLC,

According to the resurrection account in John's gospel, Jesus appeared to Mary first as she stood there weeping outside of the empty tomb. The story is so rich with imagery and deep in the moving connections between Mary and her beloved teacher, Jesus. Each of the four gospels tell the story of the chaotic and confusing time immediately following the crucifixion of Jesus and the attempts by his followers to honor and tend to his body. I've been thinking about Jesus and wondering what it was like for him in those first moments in the tomb after God breathed new life into his lifeless body and he woke up in the darkness. Did he squint his eyes as the stone was rolled away from the entrance? What was it like for him as he took his first steps out of the tomb into the dawn of his newly resurrected life? Perhaps it was a mixture of relief, rejoicing and reflection all swirling together for him, adding in gratitude for the grace of it all, it must have been wondrous for Jesus. As he emerged from the tomb of death, he met various followers. In John, it's Mary and she only recognizes him after he calls her name, "Mary." In this connection and recognition, he sends her to tell the other disciples. She went and told them, "I have seen the Lord!"

As we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday this year, I'm mindful that we have been journeying through a long Lenten-like wilderness over the past year with the pandemic, the derecho and all the added challenges that have come our way as a community of faith. The theme for our Lenten journey was, *Lessons from the Wilderness*. At our Council retreat on March 27th, we pondered the theme, *Out of the Wilderness*, and shared our reflections of what we learned over the last year and what some of the high points and low points were for each of us in our stories. I'm hopeful that, as we're able to gather more freely over the next months, we'll be able to have occasions and moments of sharing together to hear your stories and reflect on our past year together as we were mostly apart and distanced. We are all emerging from various tombs of isolation and, walking with Jesus, our resurrected savior, it's a time for relief, rejoicing and reflection all swirling together.

Part of our emerging from the wilderness centers around the ways we can more safely be back together in person as the vaccination rates go up in Linn County. Please bear with us as we, on the Council and the Task Force, prayerfully look at the data (rate of transmission, rate of vaccinations and rate of hospitalizations in Linn County) and weigh the yearning as well as the worry about coming back together. We understand that various congregations are making a variety of decisions from completely opening with few restrictions to not planning on opening up until mid-summer when a majority of their members are vaccinated. We have attempted to travel a middle road balancing the needs of those who want to make sure they are safe coming back to in person worship and those who aren't able at this time to be on a vaccination schedule. For now, the Council guidance is for those who are fully vaccinated are able to come to in person worship and all who attend will need to wear their masks, maintain the recommended distance and hand washing practices. We realize that there may be special circumstances that need to be considered and that there is no perfect way to do this. Each day brings new information and guidance about what can and can't be done safely.

All this is to say; we are going to have happier Easter celebrations this year, whether we're able to be in person to celebrate or at home rejoicing that vaccinations and more freedoms are on the way! Alleluias and Hallelujahs resound as we give thanks to God for walking with us through the hills and valleys of our year. We look out from the tomb with Jesus and see light, new life and hope on the horizon. Thanks be to God!

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed – Alleluia!

Pastor Jayne

Council Corner

Holy Redeemer's Council met on Thursday, March 11. (Meeting minutes were previously sent via email or postal mail.) The council also met for its Retreat on March 27 from 9:00 am to noon. Here are a few highlights regarding guidelines for returning to worship:

Return to Worship Guidelines: With thanks to the task force, Council has approved the following guidelines for returning to worship:

1. Fully vaccinated people (those two weeks from their final dose or single Johnson & Johnson dose) are welcome to return to in-person worship.
2. All must wear face coverings and maintain social distance while in the building.
3. Please let Admin Assistant, Jeff Hand (secretary@holyredeemer.church), or Pastor Jayne (pastor@holyredeemer.church) know if you would like to attend worship. Space is limited so this helps us plan to welcome you if we know prior to your arrival.
4. If you have a special circumstance or a question, please contact Pastor Jayne or Jeff during the week.

Worship services will continue to be streamed live on Facebook and copied to YouTube for later viewing.

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 April 8, 2021 (via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.).

Finances: During the month of February, we were short of our total budgeted income goal by \$12,611. This included a general fund shortage of \$10,258 and a building fund shortage of \$2,353. Monthly budgeted general fund income for 2021 is \$15,591.

Editor's Note: Two weeks of February offerings were counted on Monday, March 1. This accounts for a significant portion of the shortfall.

SE Iowa Synod

Synod Worship on April 11

Bishop Amy Current and synod staff members will again create a pre-recorded worship service for all congregations on April 11th so that pastors, ministers, secretaries, music and technology leaders can have Sunday to rest after Holy Week. Watch for news about the link in your emails. Please note that this will be a Service of the Word worship service and won't include Holy Communion. Our regular live streaming HRLC service with Holy Communion will continue on April 18th at 9:00 am.

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

March Mission of Hope

Our thanks to De, Shari, Jan, and Judy for preparing 100 to go meals for Mission of Hope. We furnished turkey or ham hoagies. Thanks to Dick Smith and Judith Edwards for transporting the meals to the Mission.

We are grateful to the Duo Day ladies for providing them with more quilts. And to Bill & Marlyn Davidson for their contribution of socks.

The next Mission of Hope will be **Thursday, April 15**. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Linn Community Food Bank

As with all food banks, Linn Community Food Bank is always in need of donations. The pandemic and other factors continue to combine to make it challenging to get enough food and supplies to those most vulnerable.

Our next Food Bank weekend (2nd Sunday of the month) is scheduled for April 11. We continue to thank you, as does Linn Community Food Bank, for your generous giving.

4th Sunday Offering

In April, our designated fourth Sunday offering is scheduled for April 25. The proceeds from this offering will go to **Ewalu Bible Camp and Retreat Center**.

"Our Mission: In the rhythm of Christian life, Ewalu serves as a place apart to connect the Word of God with the world of God."

Please note that, over the years, a number of our youth have been Ewalu campers, counselors-in-training, and paid summer counselors.

Grateful Grannies

The following comes to us from the Grateful Grannies Board:

In spite of all the bad things that have happened in this past year, Grateful Grannies have been able to do some good things.

At Christmas counselors were able to give us a few names, difficult for them because of not being in contact with the students daily.

We gave 13 family food gift cards and individual clothes cards to each student in those families. The counselors delivered them to the students, some to their homes with safe distancing and masks.

We had some phone numbers for the families we helped, we called them and gave each of the families we could contact a quilt (made by our good friends at Holy Redeemer Church) and a couple of jugs of soap that was already donated by all of you.

The counselors have told us one of the favorite things are the Jefferson sweatshirts and T shirts, we took several sizes up to Jefferson so they could pass them out. We will replenish when sizes run out.

Hopefully this year things will get back to more normal times. Thanks to everybody who has given such great support and a special thanks to Jamie Cummings and all the counselors at Jefferson for all the help we get from them.

Hope to see you in the Fall!!!

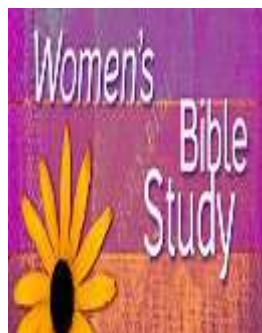
The Grateful Grannies Board

How to Give to Special Offerings

To donate to Ewalu, 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.

Adult News

Women's Bible Study



The Bible study for April is: **"Journey with Angels"**

Session 4, "Feasting, funny, alleluia angels." The focus verses are: **"Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all**

his host!" (Psalm 148:1-2)

(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.

We plan to meet in person in May!

WIGS (Book Discussion Group)

WIGS will meet at the church on Thursday, April 8 at 9:30 am. The book for April is ***The Gown*** by Jane Kirkpatrick. 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, April 27 from 9:00– 11:30 a.m. Social distancing and wearing of masks will be practiced. In February and March, over 10 quilts each month were taken to Mission of Hope. Thanks, ladies, for doing your “homework!” Thanks to Evelyn Neal for stitching pieces of batting together for us – it certainly helps us not to waste the scraps!!



Technology Task Force

A new technology task force has been created to review long-term technology and communications needs at HRLC. An initial group of seven people met on March 18.

Pastor started this meeting by thanking those in attendance as well as all those who are currently or have previously worked on various elements of our technological ministries. Pastor also pointed out that Lutherans have a strong respect for science and technology and make use of it to further our presence in the community. This dates back to Martin Luther himself, who used the “latest technology” – the Guttenberg printing press.

After a prayer and update from the “Return to Worship” task force, the group discussed a number of ideas organized around the following broad categories (in no particular order):

- Website updating
- Social media
- Livestream
- Online giving
- Church data management systems (ChMS)
- Office productivity tools (including email and calendars)
- Phones
- Grants

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 April 15 at 7:00 pm.

Small Group & Committee Activities

As more folks receive their COVID vaccine, we can begin to return slowly and safely to some of our regularly scheduled activities. Proper precautions and guidelines must still be followed but 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 church voicemail for scheduling. This helps us 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.

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.

Blood Drive Results

Donor Relations Consultant, Megan Dee, shared results from our March 5 blood drive:

“We didn’t have as big a turnout as we normally get at the church, but it was still a good day. You got 8 folks in to give and just one of them was deferred so you collected **7 donations!**”

That might not seem like a lot, but those donations will help **28 local patients** and give more than two dozen families more time with their loved ones. That is pretty special. You even recruited **one first time donor** which is awesome!

Thank you again for getting creative with us. Even though the turnout was lower, every single one of those donations will have a huge impact restoring our depleted winter supply. Your donors will make sure blood is there for the next patients that need it. *You have great donors, without a doubt. Thank you!*”

Editor’s Note: A shout out to two of our young people – Courtney Hubbell and Nicholas Hand.

While Courtney was our one deferral, she wanted to give and will give again in the future. And Nicholas was our first-time donor. Thanks to each of you for being role models for us all.

Celebrate Earth Week: Biking Around Cedar Lake

Bring your bike (weather permitting*) and meet up at Cedar Lake with Pastor Jayne on April 25 at 5:00 pm. Make sure to bring your 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 ride around the lake, take in the sights and then, if it works out, we'll grab a snack at an outdoor restaurant. The bike trail around the lake is fairly flat, so it's an easier ride for all. *If the weather is bad, the rain date is May 2, same time and same place! If this is something people like to do, we could schedule a *Biking Buddies* crew on a more regular basis. Celebrate the Earth! Get a little exercise and have fun!

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

According to the most recent Iowa Department of Human Services data, 9,532 Iowa children were subject to abuse or neglect. The



most common forms of abuse included denial of critical care, physical injury, exposure to illegal drugs or dangerous substance, and sexual abuse.

Lutheran Services in Iowa helps combat child abuse through prevention, safety, and stability services, as well as mental and behavioral health care.

Through regular in-home visits to families, LSI Early Childhood Services prevent child abuse by giving parents the support, education, and resources they need to build a healthy, stable home for their children. In 2020, our Early Childhood programs provided more than 18,000 in-home and virtual visits to families.

LSI Family Centered Services help children and families already involved in a crisis or abuse situation to become safer and more stable, and LSI's Bremwood and Beloit Residential Treatment Centers serve many children and youth who have experienced trauma from past abuse or neglect.

You can make a direct impact on these children and families through your support of 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/Facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Empowering Iowa Families

Gaylene was overwhelmed raising three young boys. Finances were strained and she and her partner, José, worked hard to make ends meet. Suddenly, well into her second trimester, Gaylene learned she was pregnant with her daughter, Julieanna. Left with less time to prepare her home for a fourth child, Gaylene was stressed at the thought of welcoming a little girl into a house with three energetic older brothers. And once Julieanna was born, Gaylene began experiencing postpartum depression.

Gaylene enrolled in LSI Early Childhood Services for help, and she and José began meeting with their LSI worker, Kellie. She provided the family with age-appropriate ideas and developmental activities for the kids, and served as a shoulder to lean on whenever Gaylene or José needed guidance or advice. Gaylene recently graduated from college with a degree in early childhood education, and her family is thriving. Gaylene also graduated out of LSI services last year. The family still keeps in touch with Kellie, and Gaylene says she will forever be grateful for the support she received when times were difficult.

"We got so used to Kellie coming to our home for five years, it's going to be different. But now I know where to turn and how to help my family down the road," Gaylene says. "I feel like Kellie and LSI actually care about people and parents."

Welcome LSI's New Spiritual Life Leader

LSI is thrilled to welcome Rev. Kyle Barton as our new Spiritual Life Leader. Pastor Kyle's role will primarily focus on providing faith-based programming on LSI's two residential treatment campuses, Bremwood in Waverly and Beloit in Ames. He will oversee the Spiritual Life program, which offers voluntary activities like music and art for children on campus to enjoy. He will also lead regular chapel and youth group sessions on both campuses.



We are excited to also expand our Spiritual Life program to further support LSI staff and serve as a representative to the ELCA community. If you would like to learn more about how Pastor Kyle could engage with your congregation, please contact ChurchRelations@LSIowa.org or call 866.584.5293!

Pastor Kyle began his ordained career with a call to St. James Lutheran Church in Allison, Iowa, after completing a bachelor's degree at Wartburg College in Waverly and a Master of Divinity degree at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque. Prior to his call to St. James, Pastor Kyle served as a pastoral intern in Dubuque at St. Peter Lutheran

Church while also working as an on-call chaplain for Mercy Medical Center in Dubuque. In his previous call, Pastor Kyle also thoroughly enjoyed volunteering as an EMT with the Allison Ambulance Service.

"I am excited to engage God's children through the ministry that is LSI," Pastor Kyle says. "I am pleased to have the opportunity to journey alongside the clients, staff, and benefactors of LSI, all the while living out the Gospel promise of Jesus Christ."

We look forward to seeing the many ways Pastor Kyle will make a life-changing impact on the children and teens we are privileged to serve!



Holy Week

Maundy Thursday
Good Friday
Easter Sunday

Thu., April 1, 7:00 pm
Fri., April 2, 7:00 pm
Sun., April 4, 9:00 am

Future Events

(All Events Tentative and Subject to Change)

April 2021

Apr 1 (Thu) 9:30 am Women's Bible Study
7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship
Apr 2 (Fri) **7:00 pm Good Friday Worship**
Apr 3 (Sat) 4:00 pm Worship rehearsal
Apr 4 (Sun) **9:00 am Easter Sunday Worship**
Apr 6 (Tue) 3:00 pm Bible Study
Apr 7 (Wed) 1:00 pm Staff meeting
Apr 8 (Thu) 9:30 am Book Group
 7:00 pm Council Meeting
Apr 10 (Sat) No Worship rehearsal
Apr 11 (Sun) **Video Worship** provided by
 Bishop Current
 Food Bank Weekend
Apr 13 (Tue) 3:00 pm Bible Study
Apr 15 (Thu) Mission of Hope Meal
 7:00 pm Technology Task Force
Apr 17 (Sat) 4:00 pm Worship rehearsal
Apr 18 (Sun) **9:00 am Worship**
Apr 20 (Tue) **Newsletter Deadline**
 12:30 pm Card Players
 3:00 pm Bible Study
Apr 24 (Sat) 4:00 pm Worship rehearsal
Apr 25 (Sun) **9:00 am Worship**
 4th W/E offering – EWALU
 5:00 pm Biking at Cedar Lake
Apr 27 (Tue): 9:30 am DUO Day
 3:00 pm Bible Study
Apr 29 (Thu): 11:30 am Let's Do Lunch @ Tommy's

May 2021

May 1 (Sat) 4:00 pm Worship rehearsal
May 2 (Sun) **9:00 am Worship**
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) 4:00 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) 4:00 pm Worship rehearsal
May 16 (Sun) **9:00 am Worship**
 Graduate recognition
May 18 (Tue) 12:30 pm Card Players
 3:00 pm Bible Study
May 20 (Thu): **Newsletter Deadline**
 Mission of Hope Meal
May 22 (Sat) 4:00 pm Worship rehearsal
May 23 (Sun) **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) 4:00 pm Worship rehearsal
May 30 (Sun) **9:00 am Worship**
 5th W/E offering – LSI
May 31 (Mon) **Memorial Day**
 Office closed



Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church
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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)



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