



PARISH PARCHMENT



Holy Redeemer
Lutheran Church

www.holyredeemer.church

March 2021

Growing to and for Christ!

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³⁵The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹He said to them, "Come and see." John 1:35-39a NRSV

Dear Beloved Community of HRLC,

In John's gospel, this is the second time that John announces that Jesus is the "Lamb of God." John's exclamation to his disciples identifies Jesus as the one they had long awaited. The image and metaphor of the Lamb of God was steeped in their culture as one who would come and make sacrifices of behalf of God's people. The Latin phrase, *Agnus Dei*, became part of the Eucharistic liturgy. We will begin to sing the Lamb of God once again as we begin the weekly celebration of Holy Communion beginning on March 7th. For the season of Lent and moving on into the celebration of Easter, we will sing the *Lamb of God* as created by Marty Haugen in the beloved, *Now the Feast and Celebration* liturgy. It's begins: *Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world – have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us* to the Lenten verse: *Lamb of God, you call us to the way of your cross – have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us...* and so we turn our very hearts to the cross Jesus and his way of self-giving love for us all.

An old saying goes like this, March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb. It usually means that the month starts out with cold winter weather and ends with the promising warmer, springtime weather. For us, this can also be said as we move from the harsh, long winter of the pandemic literally into the springtime of vaccinations and the promise of being together more completely, step by step, with our loved ones in our family and our congregation friends. By the end of March on Palm Sunday, March 28th, we're planning a wonderful pre-Easter covid-safe gathering for families and children. Watch for more details in your email. By the time we get to Easter Sunday, we may be able have more folks gathering in person for those who have had both of their shots. As always, whether we've received our vaccinations or not, we'll need to wear our masks *at all times* whenever we're in the church around others. On Wednesdays, we continue to gather for live streaming Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00 pm with Lenten dramas.

As we center our lives on the theme for our Lenten journey, *Lessons from the Wilderness*, may we all be blessed by the lessons that come to us during this time of prayer, contemplation, alms giving, acts of kindness and study of scripture. Behold the Lamb of God who comes to take the sins of the world upon himself – Jesus of Nazareth – who graces us with his peace, love, mercy, compassion and hope. Wishing you a blessed and holy Lent as we make our way to Jerusalem with Jesus.

Blessings, peace and strength in the Lamb of God,
Pastor Jayne



Council Corner

Holy Redeemer's Council met on Thursday, February 11. (Meeting minutes were previously sent via email or postal mail, but a few highlights are listed here.)

Suspension: Though COVID is not yet behind us, vaccinations will allow us to make gradual, safe changes to our congregation life. Please refer to "Holy Communion in March" below.

In the meantime, worship will continue to be streamed on Facebook Live on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings during Lent. If you are unable to join the live stream, you can also watch the recorded version on either Facebook or YouTube later in the week.

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 March 11, 2021 (also via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.).

Finances: During the month of January, we were short of our total budgeted income goal by \$6,711. This included a general fund shortage of \$6,094 and a building fund shortage of \$617. Monthly budgeted income for 2021 is \$15,591.

Council Contact Information: If you are in need of contact information for our new council officers (or any council member), please contact the office at 319-396-8547 or secretary@holyredeemer.church and we will be happy to share it.

Holy Communion in March

As previously mentioned, we will begin celebrating Holy Communion every Sunday beginning on March 7th. You are invited to come to the church and pick up your communion packets the Sundays of March. During the live streaming worship, you will be invited to commune at home.

If you have been fully vaccinated, you are eligible to come in person to worship, still with masks and sitting distanced. Please contact the Office if you would like to come to worship so that we can plan and warmly welcome you!

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

February Mission of Hope

One hundred box lunches for Mission were prepared by Nicole, Courtney, Allison, Shari, De, and Judy. Dick Smith delivered the meals to Mission.

Thanks to the Duo Day ladies for providing 10 beautiful quilts.

The next Mission of Hope meal will be Thursday, March 18.

Thank you for your support.

Linn Community Food Bank

As with all food banks, Linn Community Food Bank is always in need of donations. The pandemic and winter weather 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 March 14, just in time to share some of the good cheer of Saint Patrick. We continue to thank you, as does Linn Community Food Bank, for your generous giving.

4th Sunday Offering

In March, our designated fourth Sunday offering is scheduled for March 28. The proceeds from this offering will go to **Feed Iowa First**.

“Our Mission is to combat food insecurity today and tomorrow by growing food and farmers. By partnering with schools, faith organizations, community agencies and businesses of all sizes, Feed Iowa First finds open spaces to grow fresh produce that’s harvested to supply those in need with nutritious food. Feed Iowa First also helps support beginning farmers through training and investments that ensure the next generation of farmers and food production.”

Grateful Grannies

The Grateful Grannies have been in contact with Harrison and Garfield schools. They desperately need gloves and mittens for these elementary school kids. Now might be a good time to buy them if you are willing to help. You can either hang on to them for next winter or deliver them to Carmen Wessels at 3216 Franbrook Terrace NW for immediate distribution. As always, any participation is greatly appreciated by the “Grannies”.

How to Give to Special Offerings

To donate to Feed Iowa First, 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

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 cell phone (899-7688) 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.

Spring Blood Drive

Mark your calendars for the Gloria Dei/Holy Redeemer spring blood drive:

**Friday, March 5, 2021
2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

at:

**Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Ctr
3001 Williams Blvd. SW
Cedar Rapids**

Donors are urgently needed!

You can sign up online at:

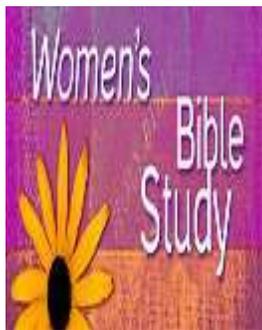
https://login.bloodcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/95747

or by calling Jeff Hand at 899-7688.

Blood donation is safe & essential.



Women's Bible Study



The Bible study for March is: **"Journey with Angels"** Session 3, "Loneliness, Abandonment, and Holy Comfort." The focus verse is: **"For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways." (Psalm 91:11)**

(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.

WIGS (Book Discussion Group)

WIGS will meet at the church on Thursday, March 11 at 9:30 am. Social distancing is required as is wearing a mask. The book for the month is: *The Daughter's Walk* by Jan Kirkpatrick. If you have questions, please call Jeri Hansen at 396-2882.



DUO (Do Unto Others) Day

DUO will meet on Tuesday, March 23, 9:00– 11:00 a.m. Please wear a mask – we will social distance as we pin and tie some quilts. Thanks to all who continue to sew at home!!! Ten quilts were taken to the Derecho Resource Center as well as some of our quilts that Grannies did not use. Ten quilts were also taken to the Mission of Hope. (Thanks, Dick Smith, for delivering!)



Fellowship

In the past, Shari Singelstad has planned a fellowship outing for the Senior Saints (and others) to attend a Cedar Rapids Kernels baseball game together. Unfortunately, due to COVID and restrictions from both the Kernels and Major League Baseball, this outing cannot be scheduled this year. Hopefully, we will be able to return to the ballpark in 2022.

Let's Do Lunch

Will not meet in March

Opportunities in Lent

Midweek Lenten Worship

Each Wednesday we will have Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00 pm on Facebook Live. Members will lend their musical talents to the service with instruments and their singing voices. If you would like to lend your musical talents to these services, please contact Pastor Jayne or Music Director Jackie Murphy.

We will also be blessed by the youth as they bring the Good News to life in the liturgical dramas.

Week 1: February 24 – The Healing of the Paralyzed Friend
Week 2: March 3 – Teaching in Parables
Week 3: March 10 – The Feeding of the Hungry Crowds
Week 4: March 17 – What the Rich Young Man Lacked
Week 5: March 24 – The Misguided Disciples

Please join us in keeping a "holy Lent" and supporting our young people and musical members in their ministry.

Lenten Bible Study on Mark

This Tuesday evening Bible study meets via Zoom and continues at 7:00 pm on March 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30. Pastor Jayne leads the discussion with materials from Dr. Paul Berge's online resource page: <http://www.enterthebible.org/newtestament.aspx?rid=3>

A paper and PDF version of the course outline is available, if you'd like to read and study ahead of the class time. You are invited to join on any Tuesday evening at the following Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85827731224>



Holy Week

Palm/Passion Sunday
Maundy Thursday
Good Friday
Easter Sunday

Sun., March 28
Thu., April 1
Fri., April 2
Sun., April 4

Other Opportunities

Bible Stories After Worship

Tracy Kisling and friends will offer a short Bible story reading immediately after the live streaming worship has concluded. There are stories for all ages, so tune in and join in the story time!

Coming Up

As Covid-19 vaccinations are administered and restrictions are adjusted, look for more HRLC opportunities to gather safely. There may be some events on Saint Patrick's Day and Palm Sunday! Keep up with email updates and Facebook notifications!

Miscellaneous

Office Remains Closed

While the church office remains officially closed, Pastor Jayne has usually been at church from mid-morning until mid-afternoon Tuesday through Friday. The times may vary according to other ministry needs in the congregation. So, it's best to call her or email if you need to reach her or visit her at the church. You may reach Pastor by email (pastor@holyredeemer.church), text or cell phone: 320-492-6377. If you have Facebook, you may reach her by Messenger. Admin Assistant, Jeff Hand, can also be reached by email (secretary@holyredeemer.church), text or cell phone: 319-899-7688. If you need to stop by the church, please contact Jeff to make arrangements. He stops at church daily to process mail and handle the limited tasks that cannot be done from home.



March is National Professional Social Work Month

March is National Professional Social Work Month, a time to recognize social workers and thank them for all they do. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we are grateful for the many social workers who have dedicated their lives to serving our communities across the state!



Maybe you have never had a social worker involved in your life. Yet, whether you realize it or not, you

have had the benefit of their behind-the-scenes work in your community. Social workers help people help themselves by overcoming life's most difficult circumstances or managing challenges of everyday living: poverty, abuse, mental illness, depression, addiction, disability, and many other situations.

Iowa wouldn't be the same without the patience, guidance, and empowerment that social workers provide. Happy National Professional Social Work Month!

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's 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](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).

A Path to Hope and Healing

Mike remembers feeling angry and depressed, and his family was at risk of falling apart. When he decided to start Therapy Services with LSI, he questioned the decision. Therapy wasn't easy and when he missed an appointment, he didn't want to go back.

But through working with his LSI therapist, Sherry, for the past several months, he has found ways to grow and heal. During each session, Sherry is there to listen without judgement, and she provides a listening ear for anything Mike wants to talk about. At the end, Mike is always given a type of homework or a lesson to think about until they meet again.

While they originally began meeting in person, Sherry has continued to be available through virtual therapy throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The virtual sessions ensure Sherry and Mike can continue meeting regularly, on a flexible schedule and from the safety of their own homes.

“Thank God for working through LSI in-person and through telehealth, and especially for Sherry, who helps people like myself who have been lost for years. If I hadn't chosen LSI, I wouldn't have met my therapist who has truly helped me keep my family and stay alive,” Mike says. “I look back at the progress I have made and see some light peeking through to the end.”

Future Events

March 2021

Note: Activities in our building continue to be suspended except with council permission.

Mar 2 (Tue)	3:00 pm Bible Study (via email) 7:00 pm Lenten Bible Study (Zoom)	Mar 16 (Tue)	3:00 Bible Study (via email) 7:00 pm Lenten Bible Study (Zoom)
Mar 3 (Wed)	1:00 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer (FB Live)	Mar 17 (Wed)	7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer (FB Live)
Mar 4 (Thu)	9:30 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Executive Mtg (Zoom) Committees (TBD - chairpersons)	Mar 18 (Thu)	Mission of Hope Meal
Mar 5 (Fri)	2:30-5:00 Blood Drive @ MVRBC – 3001 Williams Blvd SW	Mar 21 (Sun)	9:00 am Worship (FB Live)
Mar 7 (Sun)	9:00 am Worship (FB Live)	Mar 22 (Mon)	Newsletter Deadline
Mar 9 (Tue)	3:00 pm Bible Study (via email)	Mar 23 (Tue)	9:00 am DUO Day 3:00 pm Bible Study (via email) 7:00 pm Lenten Bible Study (Zoom)
Mar 10 (Wed)	7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer (FB Live)	Mar 24 (Wed)	7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer (FB Live)
Mar 11 (Thu)	9:30 am WiGS 7:00 pm Council Meeting (Zoom)	Mar 28 (Sun)	9:00 am Worship – Palm Sunday (FB Live) 4 th W/E offering – Feed Iowa First
Mar 14 (Sun)	9:00 am Worship (FB Live) Food Bank Weekend	Mar 30 (Tue)	3:00 pm Bible Study (via email) 7:00 pm Lenten Bible Study (Zoom)
		Mar 31 (Wed)	6:30 pm Executive Meeting 7:00 pm Committee Meetings

April 2021

(All Events Tentative and Subject to Change)

Apr 1	9:30 am Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship	Apr 15	Mission of Hope Meal
Apr 2	7:00 pm Good Friday Worship	Apr 18:	9:00 am Worship
Apr 4	9:00 am Easter Sunday Worship	Apr 20:	Newsletter Deadline 12:30 pm Card Players 3:00 pm Bible Study
Apr 6:	12:30 pm Card Players 3:00 pm Bible Study	Apr 22:	11:30 am Let's Do Lunch
Apr 7:	1:00 pm Staff meeting	Apr 25:	9:00 am Worship 4 th W/E offering - EWALU
Apr 8:	9:30 am Book Group 7:00 pm Council Meetings	Apr 27:	9:30 am DUO Day 3:00 pm Bible Study
Apr 11:	9:00 am Worship Food Bank Weekend		
Apr 13:	3:00 pm Bible Study		



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

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Church Staff

Pastor Jayne Thompson
Pastor
319-396-8547 ext 11
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Jeff Hand
Administrative Assistant
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Jacqueline Murphy
Director of Music Ministries
(319) 396-8547

Beth Fowler
Custodian (Temporary)
(319) 396-8547

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)



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Lutheran Church

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