



PARISH PARCHMENT



Holy Redeemer
Lutheran Church

www.holyredeemer.church

November 2020

Growing to and for Christ!

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Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Matthew 5:4 NRSV

Dear Beloved Community of HRLC,

All Saints' Day will certainly be different this year. Due to the pandemic, we won't be in person to sing and pray together to remember those beloved ones who have died over the past year. But we will be united in spirit and by the holy grace of God. Complicating the grieving process is the fact that family members and friends haven't been able to gather in the customary ways for funerals and memorial services. Depending on the time of year, the circumstances and state-guided funeral home protocols, these holy gatherings have been limited. For some families, there has been no formal time to gather and mourn as families are opting to wait until next year. Because of this, many are in a holding pattern and grieving has been delayed.

If you are missing a loved one and find yourself a bit (or a lot) out of sorts, you are not alone. Countless others share your feelings of frustration and being overwhelmed by these new and difficult realities. Blessed are you who mourn, for you will be comforted. It may not be in the usual ways, but I trust that there will be some moments of unexpected grace as you grieve. Perhaps it will be the kind word in a phone call or text from a friend. It may arrive in a card that comes in the mail or a post on social media that helps you feel loved and that others care.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God (Isaiah 40:1). The prophet Isaiah speaks about God's enduring commitment to give aid and comfort to people in their times of sorrow and struggle. Jesus tells his followers that those in mourning will be blessed. Even in the midst of broken and bruised things: lives, homes, trees, yards, schools and businesses, Jesus walks with us in these strange and difficult times and even when we can't see or feel them right away, blessings can and do surround us. As we honor the memories of loved ones this All Saints' Day, we also remember that over 225,000 families are also grieving the deaths of loved ones to COVID-19. That is an unfathomable number of people in sorrow, so it is helpful to be mindful at this holy time that we are also a nation in mourning as well.

So, in the midst of all that seems so strange and odd, frustrating and challenging, we root our very lives in our faith that grounds us in the love of God that comes to us all in Christ Jesus. In spite of our weird times, we hold fast to the values of generosity, shared gifts, love of our neighbor and outreach to strangers. We are blessed to be a blessing.

On All Saints' Sunday, November 1st, those who are able will drive up to the church and drop off your Commitment cards for Commitment/Harvest Sunday. Members of your Stewardship team will be there to greet you and thank you for your kind and generous sharing of your resources that enable our ministry to thrive at HRLC. If you'd rather mail your envelope or drop it by the church, please do so. As November unfolds, we will also have opportunities to help others in our surrounding community. The meals for the Mission of Hope continue. We gather non-perishable goods for the food pantry and make donations to the CROP Walk. Gloria Dei (GDLG) and HRLC folks are teaming up again for Thanksgiving to share live streaming worship on November 25th at 7:00 pm. Our congregations continue to assist the Edgewood Forest Mobile Home Park (EF) in the ongoing recovery and support following the derecho storm. With some outside congregational grants and financial gifts from funds at First Lutheran and your gifts as well, we will be assembling Thanksgiving meal baskets for the residents of EF. As you're able, join in the rewarding efforts to help neighbors in need!

As we remember the beloved saints who have gone before us who from their labors rest, let us hold fast to one another and follow Jesus sharing his love and blessings during this season of Thanksgiving.

Blessings, grace and healing peace in the name of Jesus, Pastor Jayne Thompson

HOLY REDEEMER REOPENING TASK FORCE REPORT

October 29, 2020

The Holy Redeemer Reopening Task Force met on October 22. During our meeting, we reviewed the Governor's most recent Proclamation of Disaster Emergency, guidance from federal, state, and local public health experts, and current relevant coronavirus data from the Linn County Department of Public Health. A review of this information indicated a continuing trend in coronavirus cases in Linn County which is not consistent with reopening HRLC to worship at this time. Since our meeting, in the last week, the data has gotten worse. There have been 326 reported cases for the week ending October 17, 408 reported cases for the week ending October 24, and already 518 reported cases for the current week with two days left to go in this week. In addition, the test positivity rate in Linn County has gone from 8.5% to 9.2% in the last week.

Recently, there have been some limited in person meetings held at HRLC. Those meetings have been consistent with guidance from federal, state, and local health experts which include maintaining social distancing between individuals of at least six feet at all times, required use of face masks, and limiting the duration of the meetings to not cause individuals to come within the definition of a close contact (within six feet for fifteen minutes). We ask that ministry leaders check with Jeff in the office to schedule meetings so that there are not too many at the same time.

The trial resumption of communion on Sunday, October 25 went very well. Around 50 people received communion that day. The Task Force proposes the resumption of communion consistent with what will allow it to be done appropriately, meaningfully, and safely under the circumstances. The hope is to offer Holy Communion once a month. Please notify Jeff in the office if you would like communion brought to your home.

The Task Force will continue to monitor data from Linn County along with guidance from federal, state, and local public health experts and provide updates, as necessary.

We continue to thank all of HRLC's members for their patience and understanding and are grateful for all who continue to support and pray for our ministry together during this difficult and frustrating time. We appreciate your understanding and ongoing faithful commitment to the common good based on the best scientific evidence and guidance that is available.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Task Force (Pastor Jayne, Mark Marz, Lanny Eggers, Brett Nitzschke).

Council Corner

Holy Redeemer's Council met on Thursday, October 8. (Meeting minutes were previously sent via email or postal mail, but a few highlights are listed here.)

Suspension: Please refer to the Task Force report (beginning on page 2) for details. Current information and trends are not consistent with safely reopening the church to in-person activities, including worship. Worship will continue to be streamed on Facebook Live on Sunday mornings. 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 12 November 2020 (also via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.).

Finances: During the month of September, we were short of our total budgeted income goal by \$5,641. This included a general fund shortage of \$6,119 and a minimal building fund surplus of \$478.

Council Minutes: Council minutes, including additional financial details, are sent via email or postal mail approximately one week after the council meetings. If you have any questions, please ask a council member or contact the office.

SE Iowa Synod

A Letter from Bishop Michael Burk

Dear Friends in Christ,

After more than 12 years, there are but a handful of days left of my time as bishop. It has been an odd leave-taking because of the need to be physically separated from so many of you. I have been helped immensely by my colleagues in the Office of the Bishop whose dedication to our shared work has not diminished. And I have been heartened by the many good conversations and meetings I have shared with Bishop Amy Current in the weeks since her election. That we have found so many opportunities to laugh together in the midst of heavy transitional discussions adds to my confidence that she will serve well, and that you will help her in her ministry the way so many of you have helped me.

Editor's Note: Unfortunately, the remainder of Bishop Burk's letter was unavailable – due to a service outage at Robly, the site the synod uses to host certain documents. You should be able to read the full letter at a later date:

<https://app.robly.com/archive?id=d6345a810247fdbffadc9be9e712aab&v=true>.

National Donor Sabbath

The Iowa Donor Network holds a National Donor Sabbath is a time for faith leaders from all religions to come together with donor families, transplant recipients, and donation and transplantation professionals to share the vital need for organ, eye, and tissue donors. Every year, National Donor Sabbath is observed two weekends before Thanksgiving. This year, it is November 13-15. During the Donor Sabbath, we recognize the selfless and altruistic gift that is donation – and celebrate the blessing of LIFE for those who receive this gift. You can learn more about Iowa Donor Network at www.iadn.org and Donate Life at www.donatelife.net.

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 Bishops Burk and Current, and a number of resources related to COVID-19 (<https://seiasynod.org/covid-19/>).

Outreach

October Mission of Hope

One hundred box lunches containing turkey or ham hoagies, potato chips, cookies and applesauce were delivered to Mission of Hope on October 15. The boxes were prepped by Nicole, Allison, Courtney, and friends. The hoagies were made by Loretta, DeAnna, Jan, and Judy. Thanks to the Duo Day ladies, we also delivered 11 quilts and 2 baby quilts.

If anyone has boxes we could use to deliver the meals in, please drop them off at the church or call Judy at 378-0867. Thank you.

The next Mission of Hope is Thursday, November 19.

The Outreach Committee: Arlan, De, Loretta, Nicole, Jan, and Judy

4th Sunday Offering

In November, our designated fourth Sunday offering is scheduled for November 22. The proceeds from this offering will go to HRLC's Annual Christmas giving with **Grateful Grannies**.

Grateful Grannies is a volunteer organization that works with our elementary, middle, and high schools to identify and serve students in need – specifically our west-side neighbors. HRLC joins Grateful Grannies to shop at Target for gifts for children in need this Christmas season.

Linn Community Food Bank

Following the derecho, most local food banks are in desperate need of donations as they continue to make meals available to storm victims in addition to those who are in regular need.

Our next Food Bank weekend (2nd Sunday of the month) is scheduled for November 8.

How to Give to Special Offerings

You may wonder how to give to Grateful Grannies, 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

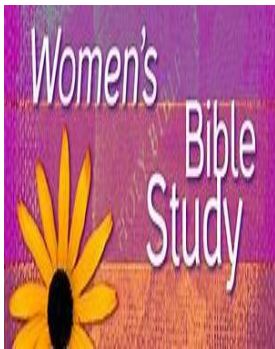
As noted in the Task Force report, COVID statistics for Linn County are “not consistent with reopening HRLC to worship at this time.” However, limited in-person meetings can be held at the church.

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 will help us to 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.

Women's Bible Study



The Bible study for November is: **Holy Time** by Meghan Johnston Aelabouni. Session #3 is : “Holy future – reimagining the time to come.” Focus verse is Matthew 28:20b “And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

(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)

The book for the month is: **The Whip** by Karen Kondazian.

As a reminder, it is also time to pick out books for 2021.



National Adoption Month

November is National Adoption Month, a time to honor families who have



opened their hearts and homes to children in need. For LSI, it is a time to celebrate the families we support through Foster Care and Adoption, and to raise awareness for the hundreds of Iowa children in need of a safe, loving home.

We give thanks for Iowa congregations who faithfully respond to these needs, year after year! As winter approaches, LSI relies on your loving support to meet the demands for winter apparel for children at Beloit and Bremwood. Youth in residential treatment have little control over their lives, so it's important for us to give them the opportunity, when possible, to choose their new coat or mittens. Because of this, we ask that you please not donate articles of clothing. With your generous financial donation, many children will have the simple joy of choosing their new coat, knowing that they are loved and cherished.

But more work needs to be done. According to the most recent federal data, more than 100,000 children in the U.S. are waiting to be adopted from foster care, and thousands of teens age out of foster care every year without a permanent family. To learn more about supporting Iowa children in foster care, visit LSIowa.org/Foster, or contact Deb Whitford, LSI's director of philanthropy and church relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563.676.2065. LSI is also available to provide a customized virtual shared ministry opportunity for your congregation. If you would like to share the message of LSI with your community, please contact our Waverly office at 319.352.2630 to get started.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and Facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

“There Is Hope”

As a young child growing up in multiple foster homes, Abby dreamed of a forever family. When she moved in with foster parents Joe and Dee, Abby knew she'd found the perfect family for her. Joe and Dee had already adopted two of their sons by the time Abby entered the family, and the children immediately bonded. When Abby was no longer able to reunify with her birth family, Joe and Dee decided to adopt her into their family.

“The kids bless our lives,” Joe says. “I wish people knew what kind of family you can have through foster care and adoption, and how much love these kids have to offer.”

Abby is now a 17-year-old preparing to graduate high school in the spring. She has found a forever family that encourages her to pursue her passions and with the support of her parents and siblings, Abby has found success as a high school wrestler, earning top awards and titles throughout her high school years.

Since being adopted into Joe and Dee's family, Abby has openly shared her story at National Adoption Month events in her community. She wants to raise awareness about foster care and adoption across Iowa, inspire families to become foster and adoptive parents, and she hopes her story can inspire other kids looking for the same loving support system she has.

“To other kids out there in my situation, there is hope,” Abby says. “You will find the perfect family that will give you all their love and care for you, no matter what.”

Let's Do Lunch

Will not meet in November

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers will care for...



Holy Redeemer's Stephen Ministers are equipped to give distinctively Christian care to those in a variety of situations. They may serve those experiencing grief or dealing with depression. They may minister to the dying and their family and friends. They may care for people facing age-related losses or hospitalization or long-term care.

They may support people working through divorce or a crisis with pregnancy and childbirth. Anyone who finds themselves overwhelmed or anxious during a tough stretch in their life may benefit from a relationship with a Stephen Minister.

Why is it important for YOU as a Holy Redeemer member to know about the kinds of people in need for whom Stephen Ministers will be caring? The answer is... because every person at Holy Redeemer will be a 'Lookout' paving the way to connecting a friend with a Stephen Minister. A potential care receiver may be anyone at church or at work, in your family or neighborhood who is going thru a difficult time. It doesn't have to be a member of Holy Redeemer.

As a 'Lookout' each Holy Redeemer member will be able to share basic information about Stephen Ministry. Then, with permission, passing along the person's contact information to the Stephen Ministry Team Leaders will pave the way for caring relationships to begin.

Stephen Ministers will meet regularly with those in crisis or challenging situations. They will listen, care and encourage. They will provide emotional and spiritual support in a completely confidential manner. In this way, by God's Grace, all involved will be growing to and for Christ, expanding Holy Redeemer's outreach in Jesus' name.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.' Matthew 5:4

Stewardship

Commitment/Harvest Sunday

As the start of a new church year quickly approaches, we all are invited to consider how we might offer our time, talent and treasure in our shared ministry at HRLC.

The Stewardship Committee will be available following All Saints Sunday worship, November 1 at 10:30 a.m., to collect your pledge cards in a drive through process. You may also pick up your 2021 offering envelopes at this time.

If you did not receive a Stewardship mailing, please contact the office.

Worship & Music

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Thanksgiving Eve Worship will be held Wednesday, November 25, 7:00 p.m. on Facebook Live with Gloria Dei. Continuing in our joint efforts to serve our neighbors at Edgewood Forest, offerings will be used toward supplying a Thanksgiving Basket for the residents.

Miscellaneous

Office Remains Closed

The church office remains officially closed. Reach Pastor by email (pastor@holyredeemer.church), text or cell phone: 320-492-6377. 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.



Thank You from Loretta Shannon

A huge Thank You from Loretta Shannon and Family. My whole family is very appreciative of all the cards and monetary donations in honor of Marv. My church family outdid themselves and we thank all of you. Several of the cards were addressed to our "old" address on Arlington St., but the Postal Service bundled them all together with a rubber band with a note that said: "we found you" and they did. Thanks again.

Reformation Celebration – COVID-safe Communion

On Reformation Sunday, October 25th, we celebrated Holy Communion after live streaming worship. Around fifty folks received the Sacrament of Holy Communion. It was a blessing and a joy to see folks, share communion and to see their smiling eyes as they rolled up with their masks on!



Future Events

November 2020

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

Nov 1 (Sun)	All Saints 9:00 am Worship (FB Live)
Nov 3 (Tue)	Bible Study (via email)
Nov 4 (Wed)	1:00 pm Staff Meeting
Nov 5 (Thu)	6:30 pm Executive Mtg (Zoom) Committees (TBD - chairpersons)
Nov 8 (Sun)	9:00 am Worship (FB Live) Food Bank Weekend
Nov 10 (Tue)	Bible Study (via email)
Nov 11 (Wed)	11:00 am Pr & SM leader meeting
Nov 12 (Thu)	7:00 pm Council Meeting (Zoom)
Nov 15 (Sun)	9:00 am Worship (FB Live)
Nov 17 (Tue)	Bible Study (via email)

Nov 19 (Thu)	Mission of Hope Meal
Nov 20 (Fri)	Newsletter Deadline
Nov 22 (Sun)	Christ the King 9:00 am Worship (FB Live) 4 th w/e offering: Grateful Grannies
Nov 24 (Tue)	Bible Study (via email)
Nov 25 (Wed)	7:00 pm Thanksgiving Eve service
Nov 26 (Thu)	Holiday – Thanksgiving Office closed
Nov 27 (Fri)	Office closed
Nov 29 (Sun)	Advent 1 9:00 am Worship (FB Live) 5 th w/e offering: Global Barnyard

December 2020 and January 2021

(All Events Tentative and Subject to Change)

Dec 1:	12:30 pm Card Players 3:00 pm Bible Study
Dec 2:	1:00 pm Staff meeting
Dec 3:	9:30 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Executive Meeting 7:00 pm Committee Meetings
Dec 6:	9:00 am Worship
Dec 7:	6:30 pm SM Supervision – Group 1 7:30 pm SM Supervision – Group 2
Dec 8:	3:00 pm Bible Study
Dec 9:	11:00 am Pr & SM leader meeting
Dec 10:	9:30 am WiGS 7:00 pm Council Meetings
Dec 13:	9:00 am Worship Food Bank Weekend
Dec 15:	12:30 pm Card Players 3:00 pm Bible Study
Dec 17:	Mission of Hope Meal
Dec 20:	9:00 am Worship
Dec 21:	Newsletter Deadline
Dec 22:	9:30 am DUO Day 3:00 pm Bible Study
Dec 24:	5:30 pm Christmas Eve service
Dec 25:	9:00 am Christmas Morning service Holiday – Office closed
Dec 27:	9:00 am Worship
Dec 29:	9:30 am DUO Day 3:00 pm Bible Study
Dec 31:	New Year's Eve (Because 2021 can't come soon enough!)

Jan 1:	New Year's Day
Jan 3:	9:00 am Worship
Jan 4:	6:30 pm SM Supervision – Group 1 7:30 pm SM Supervision – Group 2
Jan 5:	12:30 pm Card Players 3:00 pm Bible Study
Jan 6:	1:00 pm Staff meeting
Jan 7:	9:30 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Executive Meeting 7:00 pm Committee Meetings
Jan 10:	9:00 am Worship Food Bank Weekend
Jan 12:	3:00 pm Bible Study
Jan 13:	11:00 am Pr & SM leader meeting
Jan 14:	9:30 am WiGS 7:00 pm Council Meetings
Jan 17:	9:00 am Worship
Jan 18:	6:30 pm SM Supervision – Group 1 7:30 pm SM Supervision – Group 2
Jan 19:	12:30 pm Card Players 3:00 pm Bible Study
Jan 20:	Newsletter Deadline
Jan 21:	Mission of Hope Meal
Jan 24:	9:00 am Worship 4 th WE offering – Souper Bowl of Caring
Jan 26:	3:00 pm Bible Study
Jan 31:	9:00 am Worship 5 th WE offering – TBD



Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church
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Church Staff

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 (319) 396-8547 ext 10
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Jacqueline Murphy

Director of Music Ministries
 (319) 396-8547

Kim Clinton

Custodian
 (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)



Holy Redeemer
 Lutheran Church

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