



PARISH PARCHMENT



Holy Redeemer
Lutheran Church

www.holyredeemer.church

January 2017

Growing to and for Christ!

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My brothers and sisters in Christ,

Happy New Year! I hope that you and your family had a relaxing, restful, uplifting and joyful Christmas. We turn the page on the 2016 calendar year and look ahead to exciting things God has in store for us in 2017. But, before looking ahead, I want to pause to offer my thanks and praise to you. From the bottom of my heart, thank you! Thank you for all you are and all you do. Thank you for serving and offering your time and talents to HRLC. Thank you for your gifts and generosity that allow us to participate in God's ministry and mission. Truly, all of you are saints! I look forward to working together in 2017 to bring Christ alive and out loud to the people in our community.

The New Year offers a unique opportunity for us to take a step back. We don't often allow ourselves to do that. We get bogged down in the lists, schedules and "busyness" of life. We rarely take a moment to reflect and look at the big picture. I hope you take a moment during these cold days of January to reflect back on last year and to look at the big picture as you head into 2017.

As I reflect back on 2016, I can't help but think about all the awesome moments of watching my daughter, Ellie, grow up. I think about the new connections I have made with people here in Cedar Rapids. I think about how I've built stronger and closer relationships with you all here at HRLC. That's what I treasure from this past year. And it has me wondering, what do you treasure from this past year? What were your highlights? What were your Top 10 moments from 2016?

Of course, I'm sure you, like me, had your fair share of lowlights and difficult moments. We don't disregard those. We acknowledge them. We acknowledge our hurts our struggles of 2016. But, then we offer those to Christ. Jesus tells us, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Mtt. 11:28). Christ doesn't want us to have heavy shoulders or strained necks. He doesn't want us to carry that burden alone. I hope you join me in letting go of your 2016 burdens and breathing in the newness that we receive with Christ's birth. That newness that catapults us into 2017 with zest, energy and excitement!

"When the Wisemen saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered the newborn King gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." –Matthew 2:10-12

This month, we celebrate Epiphany and the Wise Men paying homage to Jesus. After experiencing Jesus, the 3 Wisemen were never the same. They were forever changed by the birth of Jesus. The child who was born to them. The child who was born to you.

May the news of Jesus' birth overwhelm you. When I say, "I'm overwhelmed," it's usually a negative feeling or in reference to a negative way of being. I pray that the news of Jesus' birth may overwhelm you but in a positive way. With joy! With love! With newness! May Christ's birth allow you to let go of your burdens and look ahead to the exciting, new things God has in store for you in 2017!

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

All my love,
Pat Fish

Outreach

Mission of Hope Meal

The Congregation will be serving Chicken and Noodles on Thursday, January 19.

Please see the signup sheet if you would like to volunteer to prepare the meal, transport the food, serve the meal or donate food.

4th Sunday Offering

The Fourth Sunday Offering in January will be donated to the Souper Bowl of Caring.

Olivet Family Christmas

Thank you to everyone who bought the gifts and donated money for the families with Olivet Mission. Thanks to Bob Poundstone, Judy Toy, Marlyn and Bill Davidson and Arlan and DeAnna Braun for sorting the gifts and Lee and Lanny Eggers and Bob Poundstone for delivering the gifts.

I can speak for the family that I delivered the gifts to that Jordan(mother) really appreciated the gifts and she said that she was overwhelmed by our generosity and was totally surprised when we gave gifts for herself.

by Shari Singelstad

Adult News

Women's Bible Study

Bible Study will meet at the church on **Thursday, January 5, 9:30 a.m.**

The Bible Study is entitled *Galatians Christian Faith and Christian Freedom. Session One is "No Other Gospel" Text Galatians 1:1-2:21.* (Copies are available in the WELCA notebook on the shelf under the women's bulletin board.)

All are welcome to join us!!

WIGs (Book Discussion Group)

WIGs will meet on Thursday, January 12, at **9:30 a.m., at the church.** Jeri Hansen is the hostess.

The book for this month is *Rogue Lawyer* by John Grissom. Come join us for the discussion.

DUO (Do Unto Others) Day

The sewing group will meet at the church twice in January: **Tuesday, January 24 and Tuesday, January 31, 9:30 – 1:30 at the church.**

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.

Craft Day



The women will meet for Craft Day on Wednesday, January 18 at 12:30 p.m. All are welcome to join!

Let's Do Lunch

The Fourth Thursday Out to Lunch Group
will meet on Thursday, January 26,
11:30 a.m.

Tommy's

(on Edgewood Road NW)

Bring ideas for lunch places in 2017.

Please sign up on the bulletin board so reservations can be made.

Senior Saints Game Day

On Monday, January 30, the Senior Saints will meet in the Fellowship Hall for Game Day from 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

A signup sheet will be posted on the large bulletin board in narthex.

Fish Fry

On Friday, January 13, the Davidsons are hosting a Fish Fry. There will be delicious, fresh fish as well as many other delicious foods. Join us for that fun fellowship gathering!

Listening Post

Join us on Sunday, January 8 and Sunday, January 15, for our listening posts. Finance and council will be present to discuss the proposed 2017 budget. Join us for the conversation and discussion.

General and Building Fund Income Statement

November 2016 Summary

	Nov. 2016	Year-to-Date	
		2016	2015
General Income	\$13,108	\$153,236	\$141,091
General Expenses	\$13,675	\$150,317	\$142,868
Building Income	\$15,051	\$54,112	\$38,366
Building Expenses	\$14,822	\$50,082	\$39,199
Income vs Expenses	(\$338)	\$6,950	(\$2,610)
Total Budget	\$17,855	\$196,405	\$198,643
Income vs. Budget	\$10,304	\$10,943	(\$19,185)

- November General Fund Income was \$1,955 short of budget. Building Fund Income was \$843 over budget.
- \$567.14 was moved from the Contingency Fund to the General Fund.
- Building Fund Income and Expenses includes \$10,000 Large Gift donation and \$1,415.73 designated from Holiday Fair. A total of **\$11,415.73** was paid as a principal only payment on the mortgage.
- 4th Sunday Offering for Christmas Families was \$158.00!
- Food Bank Offering was \$675.28!
- Holiday Fair Designated Funds of \$2,123.59 were sent to Grateful Grannies.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting for Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, January 22, at 12:45 p.m.

The meeting will be preceded by a potluck meal at 11:30 a.m. Bring a dish or side to share as well as your own table service.

At the meeting, we will recap our past year and look ahead to the exciting things God has planned for our congregation in 2017.

The council along with its new members, will hold an organizational meeting directly following the annual meeting.

Anti-Racism Conversation

On Saturday, January 28, the Southeastern Iowa Synod is sending their Anti-Racism team to Holy Redeemer to facilitate conversation around the topic of race and religion. This is not a shame or bashing conversation. The purpose is conversation and engaging dialogue.

The hope is we, as church, are continuing to discern how we respond to the realities of racism that face our communities. There are few places where we feel safe enough to talk about difficult topics and issues. We believe the Church is one of those places and we are excited to offer this safe space to deal with a challenging, difficult and real issue facing our world.

We will hold this conversation from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. with a lunch provided. Hope you can attend.

Stephen Ministry

In 2016, we officially became a Stephen Ministry site. Stephen Ministry is a lay-led caring ministry that equips and empowers lay caregivers to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people in need. That includes the hurting, homebound, and lonely.

In 2017, we are excited to get Stephen's Ministry up and off the ground. We hope to send at least 2 other people along with Pastor to a week-long training. We will have an informational meeting in January. Keep your eyes and ears open for that specific time and date!

Director of Music Ministries

In December, we said goodbye to our Director of Music Ministries, Marilyn Mark. We were sad to say goodbye and wish her well on her new journey.

We are in the process of searching for a new Director of Music Ministries and are reaching out to you for help. Please help us get the word out and let us know if you know of any place or person we can advertise about the position.

We know God will continue to bless our music ministry here at HRLC and look forward to who God sends to us next.

Thank you from Marilyn Mark

Dear Pastor Fish & Holy Redeemer,

Merci, Danke, Tak so myket - Thank you so much for the beautiful "sendoff" on Dec. 18! The prayers, hands-on blessing, cake, flowers, poinsettia, gifts & cards, fellowship time together - all were greatly appreciated and heart-warming.

Holy Redeemer has been such a caring and supportive church that I will truly miss seeing and serving you on a regular basis. However, I plan to keep in touch through special events or services, and I will keep you all close to my heart in prayer.

The Baby Jesus and Risen Lord are our greatest gifts but the love of family and fellow Christians are a close second. Thank you again, have a wonderful year in 2017 and we will stay in touch.

Blessings & hugs, Marilyn Mark

Church Family News

If you have some news you want to share about your family, such as a wedding or a move, please contact the office with this information and ask that it be included in the next newsletter.

Youth News

WinGS

WinGS begins the New Year on January 4. We are adjusting the schedule slightly:

- 4:45 We will begin with fellowship
- 5:00-5:30 Classroom time for the AK-6th grade kids; Fellowship for the confirmation/H.S. kids
- 5:35-5:55 Fun with Fish
- 5:55-6:30 Dinner
- 6:30-7:00 Group time for AK-6th grade and H.S. / 6:30-7:30 Confirmation
- **7:00 AK-6th grade and H.S. are finished**
- 6:30-7:30 Adult bible study.

Sunday School

Sunday School continues again on January 15th and takes place on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month from 10:15am-10:45am. All are welcome.

College Care Packages

College Care Packages for our 4 recent high school graduates are being put together. There is a collection box in the foyer. Please consider donating \$5 food gift cards or various snack items. More information in the foyer.

Youth Lock-In

Youth Lock-In is Friday, December 30th. Please join us from 6:00-8:30 p.m. for dinner, games and a New Year's Celebration! All youth AK-12th grade are welcome. Youth grades 5th-12th are welcome to spend the night. We will play more games, watch movies and eat breakfast together. All kids are welcome to invite a friend and we have a sign-up for snacks in the foyer. For more information, see Amy Renner or Nicole Hubbell.

Middle School Dirty Feet Retreat Mtg

On Wednesday, January 4, we are having our Middle School Dirty Feet Retreat Meeting from 6:30-7:00 p.m. The meeting is about our Spring Dirty Feet Retreat to Camp EWALU.

All middle school parents and youth interested in participating should attend. We will reveal details and the date of the retreat. Come learn more.

High School Mission Trip

On Wednesday, January 4, we are having a meeting for all our high school students and parents from 5:00-5:30 p.m.

The meeting is about our High School Trip in June to Vegas, Phoenix, and Tucson. We will discuss the schedule, expectations and financials. The Mission trip is for youth going into high school and those that just graduated.

All parents and youth interested in participating should attend. The trip is scheduled for June 11-17. Join us to hear details and information about the mission trip.

Thank You!

Thank you to all the youth, teachers, Pastor and parents that made the Christmas Program a great success. Our youth warmed the church on a COLD Sunday morning. And thanks to the congregation for participating in our Cookie Exchange. We raised more than \$400 for the youth.

Adult Leaders Needing Background Checks

At Holy Redeemer, we take child safety very seriously. Every 3 years, any adult leader who works with kids at HRLC needs to renew his/her background check. Please note that we will be renewing, conducting and ordering these background checks in January and February of 2017. Thank you for your willingness to serve our youth and for understanding how important it is that we create a safe environment for our families and children.

Youth Activities Calendar

Parents, there is a youth activity calendar located on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please fill in the different activities your child is involved in. The hope is to have members come out to support the GREAT things our youth are involved in.

Events

February 12: Valentine's Dinner @ church

February 26: Bishop Burk will speak during worship

March 3: Noon – 2:00 p.m. Senior Saints @ Indian Creek Nature Center

April 1: Senior Saints lunch at Pistol Annie's Alley Corabelle's Tea Room in Anamosa

June 11-17: High School Mission Trip

Stewardship News

Stewardship Committee Celebrates the Finance Committee

The Stewardship Committee is celebrating a specific ministry or committee each month in the newsletter.

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.

Finance Committee

by Greg Forest

The Finance committee worked with the ELCA to establish an endowment fund. The fund was approved by the council and is ready to be opened with the ELCA as soon as we have \$25,000 received to open the account.

Late summer we received a large gift which has allowed us to open the Endowment fund. A large gift policy was written and approved by the council describing the handling of large gifts, (gifts exceeding \$10,000).

The Finance committee was asked by the council to look at the possibility of combining the building fund with the general fund. We currently have in excess of \$28,000 in the building fund which could be applied to our mortgage if we combined the funds. The committee reviewed these options and recommended to the council to keep both funds going with the recommendation that we reduce the balance of the building fund to no more than \$10,000 at any one time as a contingency amount, with any excess to be applied to additional principal payments.

Lastly, we reviewed the 2016 budget and actuals spent to date. With this date 2, budgets for 2017 were created—the first assuming one service per week only, and a second which assumed a 2 service per week budget. These were submitted to the council for approval. The council reviewed these, made some minor changes and the budgets were approved. These will be discussed in January with the congregation prior to the annual meeting.

Hanging of the Greens



Children's Christmas Program





Staff Farewell Dinner

Farewell Reception



Ministry of the Month

Greeter	Jan. 1	Daryl & Leslie Julich
	Jan. 8	Shari Singelstad
	Jan. 15	Shari Singelstad
	Jan. 22	Jon Singelstad
	Jan. 29	Shari Singelstad
Ushers	Jan. 1	Ron Hansen & Dave Anderson
	Jan. 8	Gordy & Jean Stelling
	Jan. 15	Jim Veglahn & Jon Singelstad
	Jan. 22	Lora & Marc Van Buren
	Jan. 29	De & Arlan Braun
Com. Asst	Jan. 1	No Communion
	Jan. 8	Shari Singelstad
	Jan. 15	Conrad V.Z.
	Jan. 22	Jeri Hansen
	Jan. 29	Shari Singelstad
Com. Runner	Jan. 1	No Communion
	Jan. 8	Linda Singelstad
	Jan. 15	Judy Toy
	Jan. 22	Kay Forest
	Jan. 29	Jeri Hansen
Lay Reader	Jan. 1	Jeri Hansen
	Jan. 8	Kay Forest
	Jan. 15	Georgia Fuoto
	Jan. 22	Jeri Hansen
	Jan. 29	Tracy Kisling
Acolyte	Jan. 1	Ava Dufoe
	Jan. 8	Will Davidson
	Jan. 15	Elise Dufoe
	Jan. 22	Sam Gilbert
	Jan. 29	Quincy Gilbert
Counters	Jan. 1	T Kisling & J Huntington
	Jan. 8	Rollin Harder & Jim Veglahn
	Jan. 15	John Quandt & Rick Renner
	Jan. 22	Susan Hand & D Madsen
	Jan. 29	Jim Veglahn & Sara Merkey
Com. Prep	Jan. 1	No Communion
	Jan. 8	Nicole Hubbell
	Jan. 15	LaVonne Hunter
	Jan. 22	Marti Marz
	Jan. 29	Le & Dick Smith
Altar Care: Le & Dick Smith		
Visitor Calling Schedule: Shari Singelstad		

January 2017 at a Glance

Jan. 1 (Sun)	9:00 a.m. Worship w/Hymn sing & Jacqueline Kimm playing piano
Jan. 2 (Mon)	Office Closed for holiday
	9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
Jan. 3 (Tue)	12:30 p.m. Card Players 7:00 p.m. Adult Faith Formation
	4:45 p.m. WinGS
Jan. 4 (Wed)	5:00 p.m. H.S. Mission Trip Mtg for families 6:30 p.m. Dirty Feet Retreat Mtg for families 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:30 p.m. Adult Faith Formation
Jan. 5 (Thu)	9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Executive Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. Committee Meetings
Jan. 8 (Sun)	9:00 a.m. Worship w/Marcia Lofdahl playing Listening Post after service Food Bank Weekend Remove Christmas Decorations after service
Jan. 10 (Tues)	7:00 p.m. Adult Faith Formation Annual Report Deadline
Jan. 11 (Wed)	4:45 p.m. WinGS 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:30 p.m. Adult Faith Formation
Jan. 12 (Thu)	9:30 a.m. WIGS 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting
Jan. 13 (Fri)	Evening Fish Fry
Jan. 15 (Sun)	9:00 a.m. Worship w/Marcia Lofdahl playing 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Listening Post
Jan. 17 (Tue)	12:30 p.m. Card Players 7:00 p.m. Adult Faith Formation
Jan. 18 (Wed)	12:30 p.m. Craft Day 4:45 p.m. WinGS 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:30 p.m. Adult Faith Formation
Jan. 19 (Thu)	Mission of Hope Meal served by congregation
Jan. 20 (Fri)	Newsletter Deadline
Jan. 22 (Sun)	9:00 a.m. Worship w/Marcia Lofdahl playing 4 th Weekend Offering to Souper Bowl of Caring 11:30 p.m. Potluck Dinner 12:45 p.m. Annual Meeting
Jan. 24 (Tue)	9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. DUO Day 7:00 p.m. Adult Faith Formation
Jan. 25 (Wed)	4:45 p.m. WinGS 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:30 p.m. Adult Faith Formation
Jan. 26 (Thu)	11:30 a.m. Women's Let's Do Lunch 7:00 p.m. Conference Meeting
Jan. 27 (Fri)	8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Faith Room reserved
Jan. 28 (Sat)	9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Anti-Racism Retreat
Jan. 29 (Sun)	9:00 a.m. Worship w/Marcia Lofdahl playing 5 th Weekend Offering to Rise Jail Ministries
Jan. 30 (Mon)	2:00-4:00 p.m. Senior Saints Game Day in Fellowship Hall
Jan. 31 (Tue)	9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. DUO Day 7:00 p.m. Adult Faith Formation



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)



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