



PARISH PARCHMENT



Holy Redeemer
Lutheran Church

www.holyredeemer.church

Growing to and for Christ!

April 2026



<u>Inside this issue</u>	<u>Page</u>
❖ <i>From Pastor</i>	2
❖ <i>Council Corner</i>	2
❖ <i>Synod News</i>	3
❖ <i>ELCA News</i>	3
❖ <i>Congregation News</i>	3
❖ <i>Outreach</i>	4
❖ <i>LSI</i>	5
❖ <i>In Our Family</i>	6
❖ <i>Ministry of the Month</i>	6
❖ <i>Bits & Pieces</i>	6
❖ <i>Future Events</i>	7

Impact Life

Why do we pair with Gloria Dei to host two blood drives every year? These stories are a sampling of what a small gift from each of us can do for others.



Kyden’s Story: Diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia at just 17 months old, Kyden spent months in the hospital while his parents took turns at his bedside. His mom Nikki put it simply: the meals and donations from friends meant the world, but they were not going to save her child's life. The blood products were different. That's what had the impact.

Kyden is now eight years old and five years cancer free. To celebrate, his family partners with us for a blood drive and Kyden hand-delivered personalized thank-you notes to every single donor. (See Kyden’s full story on [YouTube](#).)

Blood Emergency Readiness Corps: When the call comes, we answer.

When a mass shooting struck Austin, Texas in the early hours of Sunday, March 1, we were among 12 blood providers across the country called into action through the Blood Emergency Readiness Corps (BERC).

BERC exists for exactly these moments. Blood centers participating in the program collect extra units on a rotating on-call schedule so that when a large-scale emergency strikes, blood is already available and ready to ship. Our team was on call when the activation came in, and we delivered.

The units we sent help ensure that patient care in the Austin region keeps moving, whether for those injured in the shooting or anyone else in need of blood that day. That's the quiet power behind what you make possible every single week. (Read the full story [\[here\]](#).)

Millie’s Light Lives On: Blood is medicine for the littlest patients.

Gabby knows this better than most. When her baby Millie (affectionately known as Millie Moo) was diagnosed with cancer last September at just six months old, blood transfusions became a lifeline during her treatment. Millie Moo would have turned one on March 17.

What followed was one of the hardest journeys a family can face, and one of the most beautiful responses to it. We had the honor of telling Millie Moo's story (see [YouTube](#)).

See the full story of the Millie Moo Foundation [\[here\]](#).



Thank you to all who donate blood – whether at one of the blood centers or during our blood drives.

From Pastor

Dear Members and Friends of Holy Redeemer,

What a gracious and warm welcome you have given to me as I arrived 'on board' as your new interim Pastor.

As many of you know, my husband, Dr. Bill Davis, recently died on December 7, 2025, and I was hesitant whether or not I should accept a call so soon after his death. But you have welcomed me with open arms, compassion and deep sensitivity and allowed for many 'grace moments' when things have gone a bit different than expected.

My first visit was to the "Neighbor's Table" on February 26th. The warm welcome I received as a guest without people knowing I was the "new pastor" was incredible. The friendly atmosphere, abundance and variety of food gave me an immediate sense of welcome. Then I discovered I knew some of the guests at the tables and had a great evening reconnecting.

Jeff has been a "God-send" in the office. He has patiently handled the multiple times I keep changing my mind as to how to plan the Holy Week services. Sherry has helped me connect with folks that have been home-bound including going on a visit with me, Jackie, I discovered is a 'tech wiz' and also revealed to me that her grandmother and my mother were cousins - so we are related.

The council members and the Outreach committee have been exceptionally welcoming and are open to the possibility of hosting a Youth Peace Camp this summer for a group with which I am involved. Pastor Randy and Pastor Borleske have continued to be supportive colleagues and friends, and multiple members of the congregation have stepped forward to help with worship leadership during Holy Week. I will always treasure young Brace's comments that we should send a note of kindness to each other and then after the fellowship hour shared with me a two-sided sheet of kind words from members of the congregation. Wow!

Jesus in his farewell address to his disciples the night before he died, said "I am giving you a new commandment to love one another as I have loved you." We are called not just to love God but love each other. Jesus' love is a servant love, that honors the gifts and diversity of each individual. He died out of

love for each and every one of us and never tires of forgiving us in the hopes that we realize how deeply we are loved. Now as together we celebrate His Resurrection let us continue to love as he loved us, forgive as he forgave us and honor and celebrate the unique gifts of each other and also the stranger who walks through our door or who we meet on the street.

May Holy Redeemer continue to be the welcome place for which it is known. Thank you for your multiple gifts of welcome and love.

-- Pastor Franzenburg

Council Corner

Council & Coffee met Sunday, March 8. Highlights of their printed reports and meeting minutes include:

Finances: Due to key council member scheduling, financial reports were not available at the time of the March council meeting. February and March reports will be reviewed at the April meeting.

Preliminary reports completed after March 8 show total giving is down approximately 12% compared to last year. We just met our budget for February with a **general fund shortage of \$1,329** and a **building fund overage of \$1,471** for a total excess of \$142. Lower-than-expected expenses allowed us to move \$2,468 into the contingency fund, resulting in a balance of \$45,040. Our end of February mortgage balance is \$220,360. (Again, these reports will be reviewed by council at their April 12 meeting.)

Old Business: Topics included the audit report and an interim pastor candidate. (We now know that was Pastor Franzenburg.) The discussions included scheduling – preach twice a month in order to serve in other roles and stay under 25 hours per week. This will include hospital visits, home visits, and funerals as needed.

New Business: Topics included a quarter-page ad in the Gazette for Easter, a request to increase the Outreach budget (a motion to increase this by \$1,000 was passed), and the next blood drive to be held at Holy Redeemer on July 2 (also approved).

Our next Coffee & Council is scheduled for **Sunday, April 12, 2026, at 10:30 am.**

Synod News

Synod Assembly

A reminder that the 2026 Synod Assembly of the Southeastern Iowa Synod will take place on Friday, May 15, and Saturday, May 16, at First Lutheran in Cedar Rapids. Join Bishop Amy Current, synod staff, and leaders from across the synod for a meaningful two-day gathering of celebration, fellowship, and important synod business centered on the theme “Peace be with you.” For more information, see the synod assembly webpage at:

<https://www.seiasynod.org/2026-synod-assembly>

Eco-Faith Summit: From Fear to Fire

Join people of faith from across the Upper Midwest on **Saturday, April 18**, for an eco-faith summit in Duluth, MN. As the Easter Season begins with fear and gloom, the news of the Resurrection sparks courage. Our time together will feature speakers, action stations, community time, table exhibits, and more! To register or for more information click [\[here\]](#).

Additional Synod Information

For other information from our synod, visit <https://seiasynod.org/> to find weekly newsletters (<https://seiasynod.org/news>), messages from Bishop Current, and other information about our synod.

ELCA News

2026 WELCA Triennial Gathering

The Southeastern Iowa Synod is honored to be hosting this year’s Women of the ELCA (WELCA) Triennial Gathering in Des Moines **July 16-19**. Click [\[here\]](#) to read more in a recent *Living Lutheran* article.

2026 National Faith + Climate Forum

On **Saturday, April 25**, St. Paul Lutheran Church in Davenport will host a livestream of the 2026 National Faith + Climate Forum. This free event will begin at 10:00 AM with a time of connecting with other attendees, followed by the forum from 11:00 AM–4:30 PM. Please bring a sack lunch. Click [\[here\]](#) to register.

Congregation News

Women’s News

Please note: A change in scheduling has been made. The Book Discussion Group and Women’s Bible Study have traded weeks. Book discussion group will now meet on the **first** Thursday and Bible study on the **second** Thursday.

Book Discussion Group

Book Discussion Group will meet on the **first** Thursday, **April 2 (9:30 am)** at the church. The book for this month is *Stone Mattress: Torching the Dusties* by **Margaret Atwood**. The hostess is Laura Fowler. All are invited – come join us even if you haven’t read the book.

Women’s Bible Study


Bible Study will meet on the **second** Thursday, **April 9 (9:30 am)** at the church. The study is entitled *God’s Name, God’s Promise* – a three-part Bible study by Rev. Hannah Hawkinson. Session #2 is *God the protector: Gate and shepherd*. The focus verse is: “*I AM the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me...*” (John 10:14-15). Come join us for the hour-long study led by Laura Fowler.

Chair Yoga

Chair yoga sessions are scheduled throughout April – Wednesdays at 11:30 am (unless you hear differently from Jeri or Shari). All sessions are held in the narthex – chairs are moved to provide ample space. All are welcome to give it a try. The cost is \$10.00 per session – you may pay at the end of class. Talk to Jeri Hansen or Shari Singelstad for more information.



Let’s Do Lunch

 **Change of schedule:** Let’s Do Lunch is now held on the **second Thursday** of each month, so it is not the same day as the Neighbors’ Table.

The next Let’s Do Lunch will be held on **Thursday, April 9** at **Boulder Tap House** (Edgewood Rd SW) at 11:30 am. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you plan to attend. There are also a few months that don’t have lunch spots filled – we’re open to new ideas!

Card Players



Euchre players continue to meet here on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. In April play will take place **April 14** and **April 28** – beginning at 12:30 pm.

Though smaller, this is still a lively group. Come for cards, stay for the fellowship! Talk to Lee or Lanny Eggers for details.

Adult Coloring

Adult coloring is scheduled for **April 15 from 9:00-11:00 am**. (Editor's note: My calendar shows the location as TBD, but I'm assuming that since I've not heard otherwise this will be at The Villas – 1818 Stoney Point Road SW or that those who participate have otherwise communicated the location.)

DUO (Do Unto Others) Day

DUO will meet at the church on **Tuesday, April 28**, from 9:30 am – 1:30 pm. Come help tie or pin quilts together. Bring your lunch!

Outreach

Linn Community Food Bank

Linn Community Food Bank offers their thanks for your generous donations of food and cash. Second Sunday loose offerings, designated amounts, and our “quarter tube” all go to support the food bank. Our next designated Food Bank Sunday is **April 12**.

For more information about Linn Community Food Bank, refer to: <https://linncommunityfoodbank.org/>.

Mission of Hope

We served 115 people on a fabulous day for weather. Thanks to some new people helping. We managed grocery shopping, preparing the meal, transportation and serving the meal. We ran out of food so no seconds could be served.

We appreciate all the donations and workers that we have. Shari wants to let people know how much we appreciate the monetary contributions to the Mission of Hope Fund. These funds help us continue serving these much-needed meals. This month was the highest food bill we have had, but our typical meal did not change. Rise in food prices led to a cost over \$400.00.

Our next meal – scalloped potatoes and ham with green beans – will be served on **Thursday, April 16**. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board.

Fourth Sunday Offering

The proceeds of our **April 26** fourth Sunday offering are designated for **Ronald McDonald Family Room at St. Luke's**.

When a child is hospitalized, parents are reluctant to leave the hospital, yet they desperately need a break from the ongoing stress of beeping monitors and a chance to care for their basic needs.

Parents of children receiving treatment at UnityPoint Health – St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids can have all the comforts of home while remaining just steps from their child's bedside through the Ronald McDonald Family Room at St. Luke's Hospital. The Ronald McDonald Family Room serves families of children being treated on the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), the Pediatric Unit, or the Child/Adolescent Psych Unit.

A Ronald McDonald Family Room offers a special place of calm and normalcy within the hospital walls. This program ensures families receive the care they need by providing a community of comfort and support as well as a place to eat and recharge while staying close to their hospitalized child.

This program is donor supported, meaning all services are provided at no cost to families.

Loose and designated offerings on April 26 will be sent to the Ronald McDonald Family Room at St. Luke's.

The Neighbors' Table

The Neighbors' Table served 127 meals on Thursday, March 26. A couple of photos of our many volunteers are shown below.



The motley part of the crew



A different angle and others of the crew

Our next scheduled Neighbors' Table is **Thursday, April 30, 2026.**

Habitat Home Dedication

Shari Singelstad presented another of the DUO ladies' beautiful quilts to Hatim and Eman as they took ownership of their Habitat home. The home was built by students in the Cedar Rapids School District and dedicated on Thursday, March 26.



Habitat Faith Build

This year our Eastern Iowa Thrivent network is supporting *Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity's Faith Build 2026.*

On April 18th, we are partnering with CVHFH for a hands-on panel build event in Cedar Rapids. This unique, in-person event brings together volunteers to construct the actual wall panels for a future home, making a direct and tangible impact on housing in our community.

More details about shifts & registration (*RSVP required – all volunteers must be 18 and over*) here: <https://PanelBuild2026.eventbrite.com>.

The CVHFH Faith Build program empowers local faith-based organization to put God's love into action by building homes, communities, and hope. The Faith Build will be under construction from April-July 2026.

The Eastern IA Thrivent member network has been partnering locally with Cedar Valley Habitat for over 20 years.

As part of this Faith Build, Shari attended the "ground blessing" and signed up for Holy Redeemer to provide a lunch for the workers on July 24. A sign-up sheet for food donations and servers will be posted as the date draws nearer. The home is expected to be completed in August.

Easter Basket Delivery

[Editor's note: Details of this story are somewhat lacking due to information overload – too many things happening at once. But the story is worth sharing.]

Through a connection with Pastor Franzenburg, she became aware that St. John's Catholic Worker House was attempting to put together 25 Easter baskets for children in their care. Pastor asked a couple of folks here at Holy Redeemer if we might help with this project – perhaps we could do 5 of the baskets. Through the combined efforts of individuals and our Outreach Committee, 27 baskets were delivered to the Catholic Worker House, thus removing one stressful item from their task list. Thanks to all of you who made this possible through your generous support.



How to Give to Special Offerings

Donate to Ronald McDonald Family Room at St. Luke's, Habitat for Humanity, Linn Community Food Bank, Mission of Hope, Neighbors' Table, or other community partners by simply indicating on your offering envelope, the memo line of your check, or in a separate note. Counters will ensure your donation gets designated properly and funds will be distributed to the organizations. Thank you for your generous support.



There was no LSI newsletter this month. They have been busy with Lutheran Day on the Hill and some leadership transitions.

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) is a trusted nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening children, families, and communities across Iowa.

Guided by faith-based values and a commitment to service, LSI provides a wide range of programs including child welfare, behavioral health, refugee and immigrant services, services for people with disabilities, and support for older adults. By meeting people where they are and honoring the dignity and potential of every individual, LSI works to create hope, opportunity, and lasting positive change throughout the state.

For more information refer to <https://lsiowa.org/>.

In Our Family

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy birthday wishes to: Charlie Schwarz, Steve Arey, DeAnna Braun, Ron Hansen, and Chris Beyer!

Happy anniversary to: Georgia & John Fuoto and Jeri & Ron Hansen!

Ministry of the Month

April 5	Greeter	Shari Singelstad
	Reader	Shari Singelstad
	Communion Asst	Shari Singelstad
	Counters	Linda S/Phil H
	Communion Prep	Laura Fowler
April 12	Greeter	1 needed
	Reader	Bob Leonard
	Communion Asst	Jeri Hansen
	Counters	2 needed
	Communion Prep	Jeri Hansen
April 19	Greeter	Evelyn Neal
	Reader	1 needed
	Communion Asst	1 needed
	Counters	2 needed
	Communion Prep	Laura Fowler
April 26	Greeter	1 needed
	Reader	Tracy Kisling
	Communion Asst	1 needed
	Counters	Tracy/Rick
	Communion Prep	Ronna/Sarah
Altar Care (April): Laura Fowler		

Bits & Pieces

“April showers bring ~~May flowers~~. Mud. They bring mud.” — Anonymous



“April is the cruelest month, but also the most necessary for growth.” — Elizabeth Gray

“April is the sweetest month of the year, the mellow season of rebirth and renewal.” — Mary Sojourner

“April is the month of dreams come true.” — John Baillie



“April is a moment of joy for those who have survived the winter.” — Samuel Johnson

“But it is a sort of April-weather life we lead in this world. A little sunshine is generally the prelude to a storm.” — William Cowper

“April weather, rain and sunshine together.” — Unknown

So, what I’m hearing is April is fickle! – Editor

Future Events

(All Events Tentative and Subject to Change)

April 2026

- Apr 1 (We)** 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
- Apr 2 (Th)** 9:30 am – Book Club
7:00 pm – Worship: Maundy Thursday
- Apr 3 (Fr)** **7:00 pm – Worship: Good Friday**
- Apr 5 (Su)** **9:00 am – Worship: Easter Sunday**
- Apr 6 (Mo)** Offices Closed
- Apr 7 (Tu)** 12:30 pm – Euchre Players
- Apr 8 (We)** 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
- Apr 9 (Th)** 9:30 am – Women’s Bible Study
11:30 am – Let’s Do Lunch @ Boulder Tap House
- Apr 12 (Su)** **9:00 am – Worship: 2 Easter**
Food Bank Sunday
10:30 am – Coffee with Council
- Apr 15 (We)** 9:00 am – Adult Coloring @ **TBD**
11:30 am – Chair Yoga
- Apr 16 (Th)** **Mission of Hope Meal**
- Apr 19 (Su)** **9:00 am – Worship: 3 Easter**
10:15 am – Outreach committee meeting
- Apr 20 (Mo)** **Newsletter Deadline**
- Apr 21 (Tu)** 12:30 pm – Euchre Players
- Apr 22 (We)** 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
- Apr 26 (Su)** **9:00 am – Worship: 4 Easter**
4th Sunday Offering
10:15 am – Neighbors Table meeting
- Apr 28 (Tu)** 9:30 am – DUO Day
- Apr 29 (We)** 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
- Apr 30 (Th)** **4:30 pm – Neighbor’s Table**

May 2026

- May 3 (Su)** **9:00 am – Worship: 5 Easter**
- May 5 (Tu)** 12:30 pm – Euchre Players
- May 6 (We)** 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
- May 7 (Th)** 9:30 am – Book Club
- May 10 (Su)** **Mother’s Day**
9:00 am – Worship: 6 Easter
Food Bank Sunday
10:30 am – Coffee with Council
- May 13 (We)** 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
- May 14 (Th)** 9:30 am – Women’s Bible Study
11:30 am – Let’s Do Lunch @ Cheddar’s Scratch Kitchen
- May 17 (Su)** **9:00 am – Worship: 7 Easter**
10:15 am – Outreach committee meeting
- May 19 (Tu)** 12:30 pm – Euchre Players
- May 20 (We)** 9:00 am – Adult Coloring @ **TBD**
11:30 am – Chair Yoga
Newsletter Deadline
- May 21 (Th)** **Mission of Hope Meal**
- May 24 (Su)** **9:00 am – Worship: Day of Pentecost**
4th Sunday Offering
10:15 am – Neighbors Table meeting
- May 25 (Mo)** **Memorial Day (Offices Closed)**
- May 26 (Tu)** 9:30 am – DUO Day
- May 27 (We)** 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
- May 28 (Th)** **4:30 pm – Neighbor’s Table**
- May 31 (Su)** **9:00 am – Worship: Holy Trinity**
5th Sunday Offering

Wednesdays – Admin out of office
Friday mornings – Cleaner Image (Mike)



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

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Inside this issue Page

❖ <i>From Pastor</i>	2
❖ <i>Council Corner</i>	2
❖ <i>Synod News</i>	3
❖ <i>ELCA News</i>	3
❖ <i>Congregation News</i>	3
❖ <i>Outreach</i>	4
❖ <i>LSI</i>	5
❖ <i>In Our Family</i>	6
❖ <i>Ministry of the Month</i>	6
❖ <i>Bits & Pieces</i>	6
❖ <i>Future Events</i>	7

Church Staff

Pastor Kathryn Franzenburg

Interim Pastor
(319) 396-8547
[email]

Jeff Hand

Administrative Assistant
(319) 396-8547
secretary@holyredeemer.church
Office hours: 9:00 – 1:00 (Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri)

Jacqueline Murphy

Director of Music Ministries
(319) 396-8547
musicdirector@holyredeemer.church

Cleaner Image

Custodian(s)

Worship Services
Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
(In Person and 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!!!