



PARISH PARCHMENT



Holy Redeemer
Lutheran Church

www.holyredeemer.church

Growing to and for Christ!

January 2026



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Annual Meeting (and related events)

Holy Redeemer's 2025 **Annual Meeting** will be held **Sunday, January 25, 2026**, at **10:30 am**. (If you are wondering about the year associated with the meeting, so am I. I believe it is named this way because the meeting is, or has been, largely a review of the prior year with a bit of a look forward to new year. I would propose we change the name to match the year in which it is held and change the focus to more looking forward while retaining the review of the prior year.) As a corporation in the state of Iowa, this is our annual business meeting. Of particular importance, we will vote on our 2026 Ministry Spending Plan (budget). We will also be voting for new council members. Three council members have reached the end of second three-year term – Aaron Giese, Phil Hansen, and Tracy Kisling. We thank each of them for their years of service. This meeting also wraps up 2025 business and sets the direction for 2026. Please make plans to attend and have your voice heard.

Budget Roundtable Meetings

Two opportunities to review and discuss the 2026 Ministry Spending Plan (budget) will be held prior to the annual meeting. During fellowship time (following worship) on Sunday, January 4 and Sunday, January 11, join treasurer, Earl White, and other council members to discuss the draft budget. Get questions answered prior to the annual meeting. This also allows council to use your feedback to make appropriate adjustments prior to our vote.

Potluck Lunch

Following the annual meeting, the Neighbors' Table team will be hosting a potluck lunch. They will provide chili and hotdogs (or chili dogs) and beverages. You are asked to bring a favorite dish to share. After a morning of worship and meetings, make plans to enjoy good fellowship and food.

Schedule of Events

Sunday, 4 January 2026	10:15 am - Budget Roundtable Meeting
Sunday, 11 January 2026	10:15 am - Budget Roundtable Meeting
Sunday, 26 January 2026	10:30 am - Annual Meeting 12:00 pm - Potluck Lunch

Council Corner

Council met on Thursday, December 18. Highlights of their printed reports and meeting minutes include:

Finances: For the month of November, we met our monthly goal of \$16,017 thanks to a large member donation. We had a **general fund overage of \$6,285** and a **building fund shortage of \$424** for a total excess of \$5,861. This puts us ahead of our goal for the year by approximately \$5,500. (Thank you members!) Total year-to-date general fund giving is up 6% over 2024. Building fund offerings are up 26% over last year. And total giving for 2025 is 9% higher than 2024. We were able to move \$12,520 into the contingency fund. The contingency fund balance was \$34,001 at the end of November. End of November mortgage balance was \$227,531.

Old Business Topics: Old business included council approval of the 2026 draft budget, audit committee appointments, and nominating committee.

New Business Topics: New business discussions included a new copier/printer lease, potential change in church management software – opted to stay with Church Windows, call committee, interim pastor, and payment to pulpit supply pastors for weeks with canceled worship.

Pastors Stubbs Kuckuck (synod) recommend that we continue to get congregation input and report findings to the congregation before forming a call committee. At the same time, work is being done to identify potential individuals to serve on the call committee. Pastor Kuckuck also mentioned that he would be meeting with a potential interim pastor candidate.

The next regular council meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, January 8, 2026, at 7:00 pm.**

Synod News

One Body, One Spirit

All are welcome to join in an ecumenical prayer service for the unity of the Church on **Saturday, January 24**, at 7:00 PM at Windsor Heights Lutheran Church in Windsor Heights, IA. The service will be led by Bishop Amy Current, Bishop Betsey Monnot (Episcopal Diocese of Iowa), and Bishop William Joensen (Catholic Diocese of Des Moines). A time of fellowship will follow. Click [\[here\]](#) to learn more.

From Tanzania to Iowa



From July through September 2025, the Southeastern Iowa Synod welcomed Israel Mockray from the Mwanga Diocese, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Throughout his time with us, Israel immersed himself in the vibrant life of our synod through EWALU Bible Camp and congregational visits. As Israel has now returned home safely, we invited him to reflect on his recent visit. Click [\[here\]](#) to read more.

Lutheran Day on the Hill

Mark your calendars for the 2026 Lutheran Day on the Hill in Des Moines on **Thursday, February 26**. More information to come! See <https://lsiowa.org/ldh/> for more information.

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

Bishop Curry to Speak at Luther

The Rev. Yehiel Curry, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, will offer keynote remarks at Luther College's 2026 Martin Luther King Jr. Day lecture on **Monday, January 19, 2026**, in the Center for Faith and Life Main Hall. The event is open to the public, and admission to the morning program and the afternoon break-out sessions is free. Click [\[here\]](#) to learn more and register for the event.

Bishop Curry Christmas Message

In his Christmas message to the church, Bishop Curry delivers a children's sermon, describing the night when Jesus was born. "One silent night, far away in a town called Bethlehem, the stars twinkled brighter than ever. And the angels were there too. It was as if the whole sky was whispering: 'Something wonderful is happening.'"

Curry emphasizes that "whispers make us stop, listen and pay attention" and reminds us that, this Christmas, we should listen closely because "the heavens are still whispering: 'Jesus is here. God loves you. Share that love with the world.' [\[Full message\]](#)

Congregation News

Card Players

 Card players meet for Euchre and Bridge on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. For January those dates are **January 6** and **January 20**. Playing begins at 12:30 pm here in the fellowship hall. Come for cards, stay for the fellowship ... (and treats; this group always seems to have quite a stash of treats)! This is lively bunch that always has a good time. Talk to Lee or Lanny Eggers for more details.

Chair Yoga

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



Women's Bible Study

Bible Study will NOT meet in January. Happy New Year to you and your family! See you in February.

Book Discussion Group

Book Discussion Group will meet at 9:30 am, Thursday, January 8 at the home of Jeri Hansen (1818 Stoney Point Road SW). The book is *Only the Brave* by Danielle Steel. All women are welcome – come join us even if you don't usually come for book group.

Let's Do Lunch

 Let's Do Lunch will be held **January 22** (the fourth Thursday) at **Union Station** (1724 16th Ave SW) at 11:30 am. Bring your suggestions for lunches in 2026!

DUO (Do Unto Others) Day

DUO will meet at the church on **Tuesday, January 27** from 9:30 am – 1:30 pm. Come help tie or pin quilts together. Bring your lunch! Thanks, ladies, for sewing and putting together all the quilts in 2025!

Adult Coloring

Adult coloring will meet at the Ladd Library on January 21 from 9:00-11:00 am. More information will be posted in bulletins or newsletters should the location change for February or later.

Women's Groups Note

The women's groups at Holy Redeemer are open to all women. You are welcome to attend; you don't have to wait for a special invitation. Just come and join any group that interests you. If you have questions, contact Laura Fowler or Jeri Hansen.

Outreach

Mission of Hope

Thank you to everyone who bought food, cooked, brought desserts, transported and served the meal. We served 100 plates on December 17. This was a lower number than previous months – perhaps because it was Wednesday and not our usual Thursday or because it was warmer than usual.

We will not be serving a meal in January for two reasons. First, it gives our shoppers, cooks, and servers a much-needed break from their hard work this past year. And, secondly, the Mount Vernon High School basketball team serves during the season as service project and our day was the only one that worked for them.

We will be back to serve goulash on **Thursday, February 19**. Look for a sign-up sheet in early February.

Thanks – Shari



December Serving Crew

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 **January 11**.

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

Fourth Sunday Offering

Souper Bowl of Caring

The proceeds of our **January 25** Fourth Sunday offering are designated for **Souper Bowl of Caring** - youth across the nation working to fight **hunger** and poverty in their own communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game.

“Using the energy of the Super Bowl to mobilize youth in a united national effort to care for people in their local communities who are hungry and those in need.”

HRLC raises funds to benefit Mission Support for the Southeastern Iowa Synod.

The Neighbors' Table

A Christmas dinner was served to more than 80 people on Thursday, December 18. We will roll in the new year with the next meal scheduled for **Thursday, January 29, 2026**.

How to Give to Special Offerings

Donate to Souper Bowl of Caring, 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.

LSI

Do you know someone who...

- Struggles with mental health and needs support?
- Is a refugee or immigrant starting over in Iowa, building a new life?
- Is a young parent trying to give their child a better future?
- Has been adopted or grown up in foster care?
- Lives with a disability and could thrive with access to the right resources and care?

These are the people your generosity touches. Their lives are transformed through Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) — because of caring donors like you.

Let me introduce you to Heather, one of our long-time foster and adoptive parents.

“Toby and I fostered for nearly 8 years, welcoming many children into our home before adopting three of our own. Through foster care, I’ve formed meaningful relationships with many families — I still get calls weekly to hear updates or just be a listening ear. I would do it all over again for every child we had the chance to help.”

“Foster care is so much more than being a substitute parent. It’s helping families heal, supporting them through trauma, and being a cheerleader when life has brought them to rock bottom.”

“Foster care completed our family when reunification wasn’t possible. I love these kids with every fiber of my being, and I am so blessed to be their mom. Foster care will always be in my heart.”

Heather’s story is just one example of how LSI’s programs create lasting impact. Every day, LSI’s dedicated staff walk beside neighbors facing life’s hardest challenges offering compassion, stability, and hope when it’s needed most.

Take Brookie, who lives in Harmony House, one of LSI’s group homes for individuals with disabilities. Her mom shared:

“LSI supports Brookie emotionally and physically every day. The staff are caring, kind, and compassionate. With their support, Brookie lives as independently as possible in a safe and happy environment. She participates in Special Olympics, Strikers bowling, ice hockey, softball, work, community events, and family gatherings. LSI has enriched Brookie’s life and our family’s life in ways we cannot measure. It’s a huge comfort knowing she is cared for so wonderfully.”

Your generosity makes stories like Heather’s and Brookie’s possible. Because of you:

- A young mom finds her footing and gains hope for the future.
- A child finds a safe, nurturing home where they can thrive.
- A teen struggling with mental health knows they are not alone.
- A refugee begins a new life in Iowa with dignity and support.
- Individuals with disabilities experience full, meaningful lives in the community they call home.

And these are just a few examples. LSI programs touch thousands of lives across Iowa. Families are strengthened, children are supported, and adults facing challenges are empowered to live independently and with dignity.

Will you make a gift today to continue this life-changing work? Every dollar brings comfort, healing, and hope to someone who needs it most, someone right here in our Iowa communities.

Your compassion transforms lives, builds resilience, and spreads hope. Thank you for your faith in others, your generosity, and your partnership. Together, we are creating brighter futures, stronger families, and thriving communities — every single day.

LSI – New Chief Development Officer

LSI is thrilled to welcome Andrea Maschka as Chief Development Officer. Andrea brings more than two decades of leadership in philanthropy, nonprofit management, sales, and strategic communications to the role, advancing LSI's mission to respond to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service and community impact.

As CDO, Maschka will lead LSI's statewide fundraising and development strategy, guide a team of philanthropy directors, and strengthen donor, corporate, and foundation partnerships for vital services across Iowa. She will help build and boost the future of LSI, shaping a forward-looking philanthropic vision that leverages data-driven insights, meaningful relationships, and equity-centered fundraising practices to ensure sustainable growth.

Maschka joins LSI from Hope Ministries, where she served as Major Gifts Officer and helped drive transformational giving by building deep, mission-aligned relationships with donors. She also brought her leadership to Mosaic Homes of Iowa, expanding donor networks and community partnerships, and to her role as a Business Restructuring Consultant, where she collaborated with nonprofits and small businesses to design sustainable growth strategies powered by innovation and purpose.

Andrea and her husband, Brian, have been married for nearly 25 years and have three children, Creighton, Berkley and Drake. In her free time, she enjoys quality time with her family, cheering the Iowa State Cyclones and Nebraska Cornhuskers, watching her sons on the baseball field, and sharing her love of fashion by shopping with her daughter for the latest trends.

"I am honored to join LSI at such a pivotal time," said Maschka. "Together with our staff, partners, and donors, I look forward to building relationships that inspire generosity, advance equity, and create opportunities for Iowans to thrive."

In Our Family

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy birthday wishes to: Joyce Black, Lloyd Mosley, Gwen Leonard, Valarie (Davidson) King, Peg Quandt, Lane Prochnow, and Lois Shipley!

Ministry of the Month

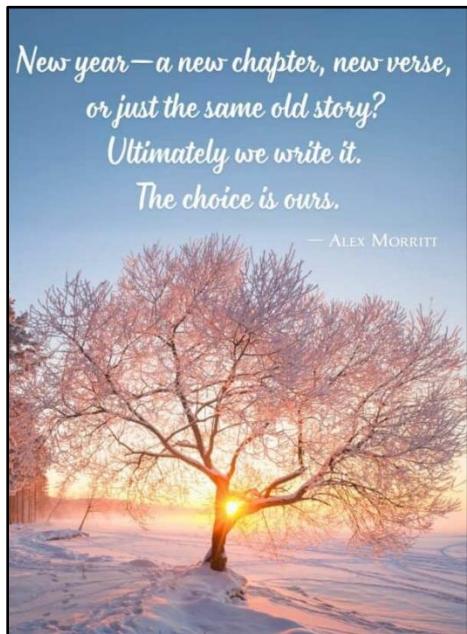
Jan 4	Greeter	1 needed
	Asst Minister	1 needed
	Reader	Jeri Hansen
	Communion Asst	Jeri Hansen
	Counters	2 needed
	Communion Prep	Ronna K/Sarah C
Jan 11	Greeter	1 needed
	Asst Minister	1 needed
	Reader	Bob Leonard
	Communion Asst	Sarah Cones
	Counters	2 needed
	Communion Prep	Kathy Logan
Jan 18	Greeter	1 needed
	Asst Minister	1 needed
	Reader	1 needed
	Communion Asst	1 needed
	Counters	2 needed
	Communion Prep	Jeri Hansen
Jan 25	Greeter	Shari Singelstad
	Asst Minister	1 needed
	Reader	Shari Singelstad
	Communion Asst	Shari Singelstad
	Counters	2 needed
	Communion Prep	Laura Fowler
Feb 1	Greeter	1 needed
	Asst Minister	1 needed
	Reader	1 needed
	Communion Asst	1 needed
	Counters	2 needed
	Communion Prep	Ronna K/Sarah C

Altar Care (January): Laura Fowler

Sign-up sheets are posted for communion care and altar care (bulletin board near water fountains) as well as ministers of the week (table below monitor). Please help where you can!

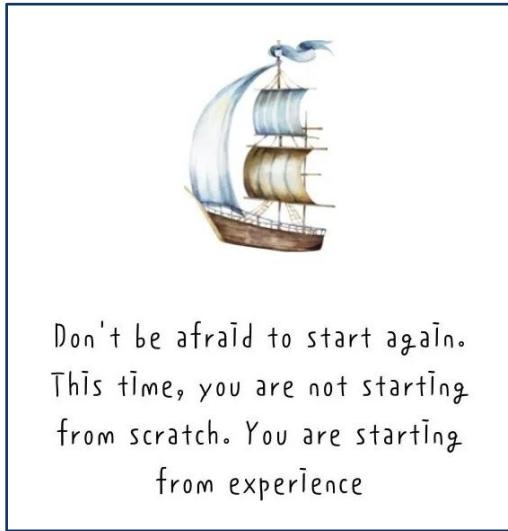
Bits & Pieces

“Before I agree to 2026, I need to see some terms and conditions.” — Unknown

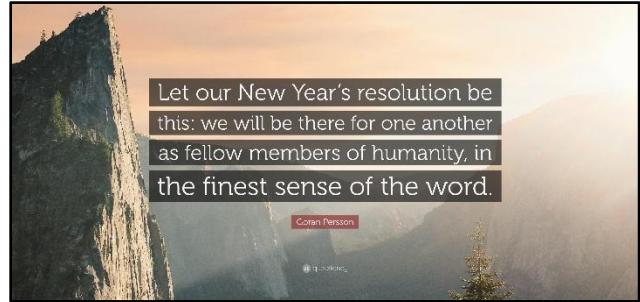


“Through the chill of December, the early winter moans...but it's the January wind that rattles old bones.” — John Facenda

“Each age has deemed the new-born year the fittest time for festal cheer.” — Sir Walter Scott



“The beginning is the most important part of the work.” — Plato

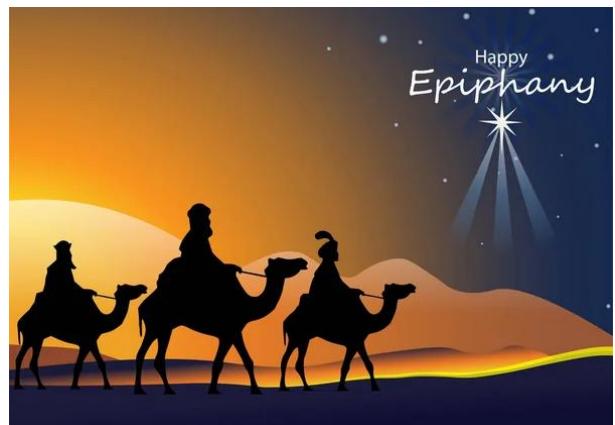


“What the new year brings you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year.”

— Vern McLellan



“January discipline leads to December celebrations.” — Unknown



The wise still seek Him.

Future Events

(All Events Tentative and Subject to Change)

January 2026

Jan 1 (Th) New Year's Day (offices closed)
Jan 4 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 2 Christmas**
10:15 am – Budget Roundtable
Jan 6 (Tu) **Epiphany of Our Lord**
12:30 pm – Card Players
Jan 7 (We) 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
Jan 8 (Th) 9:30 am – Book Club
7:00 pm – Council Meeting
Jan 11 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: Baptism of Our Lord**
Food Bank Sunday
10:15 am – Budget Roundtable
Annual Reports Due
Jan 14 (We) 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
Jan 15 (Th) NO Mission of Hope Meal
Jan 18 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 2 Epiphany**
10:15 am – Neighbors Table meeting
Jan 20 (Tu) 12:30 pm – Card Players
Newsletter Deadline
Jan 21 (We) 9:00 am – Adult Coloring @ Ladd Lib
11:30 am – Chair Yoga
Jan 22 (Th) 11:30 am – Let's Do Lunch @ Union Station
Jan 25 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 3 Epiphany**
4th Sunday Offering
10:30 am – Annual Meeting
Potluck lunch to follow

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 25 – 10:30 am

(Reports due Sunday, January 11)

Jan 27 (Tu) 9:30 am – DUO Day
Jan 28 (We) 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
Jan 29 (Th) 4:30 pm – Neighbors Table

February 2026

Feb 1 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 4 Epiphany**
12:30 pm – Card Players
Feb 4 (We) 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
Feb 5 (Th) 9:30 am – Women's Bible Study
Feb 8 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 5 Epiphany**
Food Bank Sunday
Feb 11 (We) 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
Feb 12 (Th) 9:30 am – Book Club
7:00 pm – Council Meeting
Feb 14 (Sa) **Valentines Day**
Feb 15 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: Transfiguration**
10:15 am – Neighbors Table meeting
Feb 17 (Tu) 12:30 pm – Card Players
Feb 18 (We) 9:00 am – Adult Coloring @ Ladd Lib
11:30 am – Chair Yoga
7:00 pm – Worship: Ash Wednesday
Mission of Hope Meal
Feb 22 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 1 Lent**
4th Sunday Offering
10:30 am – Coffee with Council
Newsletter Deadline
Feb 24 (Tu) 9:30 am – DUO Day
Feb 25 (We) 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
Feb 26 (Th) 11:30 am – Let's Do Lunch (TBD)

March 2026

Mar 1 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 2 Lent**

Wednesdays – Admin out of office

Friday mornings – Cleaner Image (Mike)



Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church

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Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52405

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Church Staff

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Jacqueline Murphy
Director of Music Ministries
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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!!!