



July 2025

PARISH PARCHMENT



Holy Redeemer
Lutheran Church

www.holyredeemer.church

Growing to and for Christ!

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Blood Drive – Thursday, July 24



HOLY REDEEMER & GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCHES BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, July 24 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Holy Redeemer Fellowship Hall - 720 Edgewood Rd NW

To book an appointment, scan the QR code or contact
Jeff Hand at secretary@holyredeemer.church or
Karen Goedeken at kdgoedeken@gmail.com.



Group code: 2683

Last Date to donate elsewhere: 05/29/25

Our summer blood drive is scheduled for Thursday, July 24 from 3:00 – 6:00 pm. The drive will be here at Holy Redeemer in the fellowship hall. You can sign up online by scanning the QR code in the photo above (or larger versions throughout the church). You can also contact Jeff in the office and he will get you signed up.

Blood (and blood products – platelets, plasma, etc.) are always in need, but generally more so in summer and winter months. Vacations and bad weather lead to fewer donors and short supplies. If you've not given whole blood since May 29, please consider donating at our drive. If you give regularly and cannot give at our drive, please consider having your next donation applied to our drive – just let them know when you donate.

Thank you for donating!

Council Corner

Holy Redeemer's Council met on Thursday, June 12. Here are a few highlights from their printed reports and meeting minutes:

Finances: For the month of May, we did not meet our monthly goal of \$16,017. We had a **general fund shortage of \$5,217** and a **building fund surplus of \$584** for a total shortage \$4,633. While May general fund offering was just slightly higher than last year (1%), building fund offerings were up 74%. Total giving for 2025 remains at 1% above 2024. May expenses exceeded both giving and budget. \$4,736 was moved from the contingency fund, leaving a balance of \$21,139 at the end of May. Our end of May mortgage balance was \$240,994.

Old Business Topics: Old business discussions focused on building issue updates, Eagle Scout project update, paper bulletins, and a synod request for gifts to Iglesia Camino de Emaus – a new ministry within the synod. (Current financial position and possible options for the gift were discussed.)

New Business Topics: New business included current and updated technology needs, farewell to Pastor Dawn, needs for interim, including pulpit supply, and hosting youth from Ezekiel Lutheran in River Falls, WI.

Committee Recommendations: Committee reports were reviewed by the council. Jackie presented the need for a digital marketing plan and outreach communications.

The next regular council meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, July 10, 2025 at 7:00 pm.**

Synod News

Churchwide Assembly – Bishop Current

As I shared with the voting members at our Synod Assembly on May 17, 2025, I am deeply honored to serve as your bishop, and I am open to the possibility of reelection at our Synod Assembly in 2026.

Bishop Eaton is not standing for reelection so our church will elect a new Presiding Bishop at the

Churchwide Assembly in July. There has been a pre-identification process for this role, and I am among those pre-identified. I have prayed and conversed about how to proceed, and with encouragement from others and with clarity in myself I did complete the pre-identification paperwork. This means that my name will be on a list with many other leaders in our church that will be made available to the voting members of the Churchwide Assembly in the next week. I am sharing this now so you are not surprised that I am participating in our church's process of mutual discernment. I hope that there will be many names identified and that more names may emerge before we gather in July.

I trust that the Holy Spirit will continue to work through our church and our voting members to prayerfully nominate candidates and through the election process to name a new presiding bishop.

In the meantime, please pray for Presiding Bishop Eaton, the Churchwide Voting members, and all who prepare for our 2025 Churchwide Assembly.

Amy L Current



Bishop Current, Bishop Jones, and Bishop Halaas are teaming up once again to ride RAGBRAI (the Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa) on **Thursday, July 24**, from Iowa Falls to Cedar Falls. They rode the full RAGBRAI in 2023 for ELCA World Hunger and raised \$92K!

Why a reprise this year? All three bishops will ride together in celebration of their partnership with Bishop Halaas as she concludes her term; the 2025 route travels through our own Northeastern Iowa, and once again, it's a great opportunity to raise funds for local anti-hunger ministries! Stay tuned for more details or make a donation today:

<https://onrealm.org/neiasynod/-/form/give/ragbrai2025>

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

Our Journey of Faith Together

Presiding Bishop Eaton shares the following video and letter as a reminder during this season of assemblies and change that “our call remains the same: to love and serve others as Jesus taught. Our church will continue our work to proclaim the gospel and to serve all of God’s people.”

You can watch Bishop Eaton’s video on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHJdcAB2G5U>. You can read the full text of her letter [\[here\]](#).

ELCA Social Statements

Considered at 2025 Churchwide Assembly

ELCA social statements and messages guide members addressing social and ethical issues through the lens of faith. Social statements are comprehensive documents that outline the church’s official position on broad topics developed through a participatory process and approved by a two-thirds vote at a Churchwide Assembly. At this summer’s Assembly, two statements have been recommended for consideration:

- **[Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust](#)**
Reconsiderations. In 2022, the Churchwide Assembly authorized two reconsiderations of the social statement adopted in 2009, beginning the study process, and now the proposed, edited social statement will be considered.
- **[Civic Life and Faith](#)**. After years of study and churchwide input, a new social statement on civic life and faith, exploring the relationship between church and state, will be considered for adoption.

The ELCA is also currently developing a social message on **[Child Protection](#)**. Social messages are focused documents that address specific issues and are approved by the presiding bishop in consultation with the Church Council. The public feedback period on the draft social message on Child Protection is

open until June 30. This feedback will be used to strengthened the draft which will be presented to the ELCA Church Council for a vote this fall.

Congregation News

Card Players

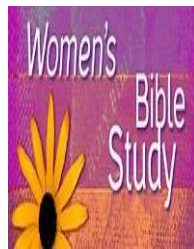


Card players will be in action the first and third Tuesdays – **July 1** and **July 15** – beginning at 12:30 pm here at the church. Come for cards, stay for the fellowship ... (and treats)! This is lively bunch that always has a good time.

Chair Yoga

Chair yoga continues throughout July. All sessions are **Wednesday at 1:00 pm** 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 meet at church on **Thursday, July 3** at 9:30 am. The summer Bible study is ***Where Two or More are Gathered: Flourishing in Relationships*** by Rev. Brooke Peterson. Session 2 is *Relationships That Sustain Us* – focusing on the story of Naomi and Ruth. All are welcome to join us!

Book Discussion Group

Book Discussion Group will take off the month of July. Enjoy some summer reading!

Let’s Do Lunch

Let’s Do Lunch will be held at Groundswell (201 Third Avenue SW) on **Thursday, July 24** at 11:30 am. Talk to Shari Singelstad for more information. Please sign up on the board – it’s not just a ladies lunch anymore – men are welcome too!

DUO (Do Unto Others) Day

DUO will meet at the church on **Tuesday, July 22** and again on **Tuesday, July 29** from 9:30 am – 1:30 pm. Come help tie or pin quilts together. Bring your lunch!



The DUO ladies presented pastor with one of their beautiful quilts at a luncheon in her honor.

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.

Garage Sale - Recap

What was all that stuff (junk) filling up a classroom. It's gone – most of it was sold with the remainder being picked up by the Salvation Army! The final amount taken in \$2300!!! We didn't have nearly as much stuff as last year but we made just a little bit more. A portion will be given to the Community Free Clinic, and the rest will go toward the Holy Redeemer Building Mortgage.

Well done congregational members and friends! A **special THANK YOU goes to the chairperson: Shelly Davidson for all her hard work before, during, and after the sale.**

More thanks go to all who brought things to sell, set up tables and filled them, the cashiers and salespeople who were there from start to finish. Thanks to Jeff for doing the fliers and advertising and to all who came to take down the tables and get the rooms back to normal.

All in all, a very successful venture.

Submitted by Jeri Hansen

Love of Neighbor

Habitat Home Dedication

Habitat for Humanity had another home dedication on Thursday, June 26. While none of our quilt presenters were able to attend, the DUO ladies still donated a quilt.

Linn Community Food Bank

We continue to thank you, as does Linn Community Food Bank, 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. On June 8, an additional \$132.75 was donated from our quarter tube and it is all set to be filled again. Our next designated Food Bank Sunday is **July 13**.

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

Mission of Hope

Over 100 walking tacos were served at Mission of Hope on Thursday, June 19. Thanks to everyone who bought groceries, cooked, transported and served the meal. Our next Mission of Hope will be served **Thursday, July 17**. Look for the signup sheet on the bulletin board.

If you have any questions, contact Shari Singelstad.

Fourth Sunday Offering

Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity

The proceeds of our **July 27** fourth Sunday offering will go to **Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity** – benefiting our local chapter.

Habitat for Humanity International has built and rehabilitated more than 800,000 houses with partner families, helping house more than 4 million people and becoming a true world leader in addressing the issues of poverty housing.

How to Give to Special Offerings

To donate to Linn Community Food Bank, Mission of Hope, Habitat for Humanity, 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.

The Neighbors' Table

A second Neighbors' Table meal was served Thursday, June 26. The building was busy again with activity both Wednesday and Thursday. Diners were served chicken and pasta (with a choice of marina or alfredo sauce), side dishes, and dessert.



Pictures of the crew that helped with the first meal.

At our first meal (in May) we served approximately 45, plus our volunteers. In June, we served 85. Any extra food was taken to Mission of Hope the following day.

Our next meal will be served on Thursday, July 31. Sign-up sheets and details to come. Please talk to Tony Dehl if you are interested in helping.

Fellowship



Shari Singelstad has reserved 25 seats for a Kernels Baseball game on **Sunday August 17th at 1:00 pm**. The ticket prices for a group outing will be \$11.00 each. Please watch for

more information as the date gets closer.

If you have any questions or would like to purchase tickets, please contact Shari.

LSI



LSI proudly serves Iowans in all 99 counties through our services of Mental Health, Early Childhood, Foster Care & Adoption, Global Greens, People with Disabilities, and Immigrant & Refugee Community Services. We serve individuals of all ages, from families with newborns navigating the early stages of parenthood, to Refugee and Immigrant elders, as well as children at every stage of development. Our heart beats for the people we serve. We empower families and communities by recognizing and honoring the strengths and gifts of every individual.

From Orphanage to Expansive Outreach: The Journey of Lutheran Services in Iowa

As we celebrate 160 years of ministry through Lutheran Services in Iowa, we are filled with gratitude, for the lives changed, the communities strengthened, and the faithful support that has sustained this work for generations.

What began as a small orphanage has grown into a statewide mission of compassion and care. The story of **Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI)** is one of transformation, deeply rooted in the Lutheran commitment to serve our neighbors in need.

1864: A Humble Beginning – LSI’s story starts with the opening of the Lutheran Children’s Home in 1864. In 1900, the home relocated to Waverly and was renamed the Bremwood Children’s Home, becoming a place of refuge for countless children over the years.

1939–1945: Expanding the Mission – The mission widened in 1939 with the founding of the Lutheran Welfare Society of Iowa. By 1945, this ministry reached across the state, with offices in Council Bluffs, Des Moines, Iowa City, and Sioux City—bringing help and hope to more Iowans.

1963: A New Name, Broader Services – In 1963, the organization became Lutheran Social Services (LSS). Its ministries grew to include child welfare, foster care, and chaplaincy services—touching more lives and deepening its commitment to families.

2003: Uniting in Purpose - A major milestone came in 2003, when LSS merged with the Bremwood Children’s Home, creating the organization we know today: Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI). While Bremwood ceased functioning as a children’s home, it became a residential treatment facility for youth serving faithfully until 2024.

2024: A Shift in Focus – Due to rising operational costs, LSI discontinued residential services in Waverly in 2024. However, the spirit of care lives on, LSI continues to provide a variety of services in the Waverly area and throughout Iowa.

A Mission That Grows with Grace - “We have evolved significantly from an orphanage that believed in being there for children who were in need to, now, a multi service Lutheran mission organization,” says our President & CEO Renee Hardman.

Today, LSI serves Iowans through Early Childhood, Foster Care & Adoption, Global Greens, Mental Health, Services for People with Disabilities, Immigrant & Refugee Services.

The Journey Continues: Our Mission Today

We look forward to continuing this vital work for the next 160 years and beyond, responding to God’s call to love and serve our neighbors in need. Whether it’s walking alongside families in crisis, supporting

children in foster care, or empowering individuals with disabilities, LSI’s mission depends on the support of faithful partners like you.

We are proud to share the incredible impact we made in 2024 alone:

10,000 Early Childhood Home Visits: Providing in-home support and care to thousands of families across our region.

726 New Arrivals Resettled: Helping individuals and families build new lives with safety, dignity, and hope.

366,400 Hours of Disability Services: Empowering people with disabilities through hundreds of thousands of hours of dedicated care and support.

19,000 Therapy Sessions: Delivering essential mental health care to individuals and families when they needed it most.

620 Families Served in Foster & Adoptive Care: Supporting loving homes and brighter futures for children through foster and adoptive care services.

Over 1 Million Pounds of Produce Grown: Global Greens farmers grew more than a million pounds of fresh produce—consumed at home, sold at local markets, or donated to LSI’s Elder Pantry and community fridges to nourish neighbors in need.

None of this would be possible without you. Your prayers, generosity, and unwavering belief in our mission fuel every visit, every session, every seed planted. Together, we are building stronger families, welcoming new neighbors, and creating communities where everyone has the chance to thrive.

Join us on October 17th as we celebrate 160 years of faithful service and community impact through LSI!

We’re marking this incredible milestone with a special community celebration, and everyone is welcome friends, families, supporters, and congregations alike!

To purchase tickets or for more information, please reach out to your Philanthropy Director.

We’d love to see you there as we honor LSI’s legacy and look forward to its future!

Your gift changes the lives of thousands of people across Iowa.

In Our Family

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy birthday wishes to: Sarah Cones, Bob Leonard, Jordan Renner, John Fuoto, Tracy Kisling, David Anderson, Linda Singelstad, Lanny Eggers, and Connie Hansen!

Anniversary congratulations to: Jann & John Millett, Amy & Rick Renner, and Jessica Cones-Renn & James Renn.

Allison Klein & Ezekiel Youth

Holy Redeemer was treated to a brief return of Allison Klein, Director of Teen and Young Adult Ministry at Ezekiel Lutheran Church in River Falls, Wisconsin, along with a group of youth and 3 adult chaperones. In addition to their overnight stay on a trip to St. Louis for a service learning experience, the youth helped with worship – serving as greeters, ushers, and readers. One of the youth shared more about their trip and what they looked forward to doing. And Allison offered both a children's message and a reflection (sermon); she also helped serve communion.



The group also had a bit of fun while they were here:



What a joy it was to share ministry and fellowship with this group of young people.

Ministry of the Month

July 6	Greeter	Evelyn Neal
	Asst Minister	Tracy Kisling
	Reader	Jeri Hansen
	Counters	2 needed
July 13	Greeter	Lee Eggers
	Asst Minister	Loretta Shannon
	Reader	Tracy Kisling
	Communion Asst	Loretta Shannon
	Counters	Loretta/1 needed
	Communion Prep	Laura Fowler
July 20	Greeter	Shari Singelstad
	Asst Minister	Tracy Kisling
	Reader	Shari Singelstad
	Communion Asst	Shari Singelstad
	Counters	2 needed
	Communion Prep	Jeri Hansen
July 27	Greeter	Dick Smith
	Asst Minister	Loretta Shannon
	Reader	Jeri Hansen
	Communion Asst	Jeri Hansen
	Counters	Loretta/1 needed
	Communion Prep	Smiths
Altar Care (July):		1 needed

Bits & Pieces

Hello July

Just be you, because you are
Unique, worthy and amazing.
Live every day to the fullest as
You deserve all the good in life

OurMindfulLife.com



“Entering into the seventh month of the year means the next half year is yours. Welcome July with positive vibes only.” — Unknown

“If I had my way, I’d remove January from the calendar altogether and have an extra July instead.” — Roald Dahl

“July is when I learn to appreciate every cold drink I’ve ever had.” — Unknown



“Don’t just admire the sunshine – be the reason July shines brighter.” — Unknown

"Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes.... including you." — Unknown

“There comes a time when people get tired of being pushed out of the glittering sunlight of life’s July and left standing amid the piercing chill of an alpine November.” — Martin Luther King, Jr.

“My dream is of a place and time where America will once again be seen as the last best hope of earth.” — Abraham Lincoln



“If ant hills are high in July, the coming winter will be hard.” — American folklore

“The talk about the big skies in the western United States, and they may have them, but you have never seen such lofty clouds, such towering anvils, as in Iowa in July.” — Bill Bryson



“It’s Fourth of July weekend, or, as I call it, Exploding Christmas.” — Stephen Colbert

Bread, light, and pew(s) available all year!

Future Events

(All Events Tentative and Subject to Change)

July 2025

July 1 (Tu) 12:30 pm – Card Players
July 2 (We) 1:00 pm – Chair Yoga
July 3 (Th) 9:30 am – Women’s Bible Study
 6:30 pm – Committee Mtgs (TBD)
July 4 (Fr) **Independence Day** (offices closed)
July 6 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 4 Pentecost**
 10:30 am – Coffee with Council
July 9 (We) 1:00 pm – Chair Yoga
July 10 (Th) **No Book Club**
 7:00 pm – Council Meeting
July 13 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 5 Pentecost**
 Food Bank Sunday
July 15 (Tu) 12:30 pm – Card Players
July 16 (We) 9:00 am – Adult Coloring (Scooters)
 1:00 pm – Chair Yoga
July 17 (Th) **Mission of Hope Meal**
July 20 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 6 Pentecost**
Newsletter Deadline
July 22 (Tu) 9:30 am – DUO Day
July 23 (We) 1:00 pm – Chair Yoga
July 24 (Th) 11:30 am – Let’s Do Lunch

Let’s Do Lunch

Thursday, July 24
Groundswell Café
201 Third Ave SW

July 24 (Th) **3:00 pm – Summer Blood Drive**
July 27 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 7 Pentecost**
 4th Sunday Offering
 10:30 am – Coffee with Council
Jul 28-Aug 2 **ELCA Churchwide Assembly**
July 30 (We) 1:00 pm – Chair Yoga
July 31 (Th) **4:30 pm – The Neighbors’ Table**

August 2025

Aug 3 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 8 Pentecost**
 11:00-6:00 – Fellowship Hall reserved
Aug 5 (Tu) 12:30 pm – Card Players
Aug 6 (We) 1:00 pm – Chair Yoga
Aug 7 (Th) 9:30 am – Women’s Bible Study
 6:30 pm – Committee Mtgs (TBD)
Aug 10 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 9 Pentecost**
 Food Bank Sunday
Aug 13 (We) 1:00 pm – Chair Yoga
Aug 14 (Th) 9:30 am – Book Club
 7:00 pm – Council Meeting
Aug 17 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 10 Pentecost**
1:00 pm – Kernels Baseball Fellowship
Aug 19 (Tu) 12:30 pm – Card Players
Aug 20 (We) 9:00 am – Adult Coloring (Scooters)
 1:00 pm – Chair Yoga
Newsletter Deadline
Aug 21 (Th) **Mission of Hope Meal**
Aug 24 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 11 Pentecost**
 4th Sunday Offering
 10:30 am – Coffee with Council
Aug 26 (Tu) 9:30 am – DUO Day
Admin at Synod Workshop
Aug 27 (We) 1:00 pm – Chair Yoga
Aug 28 (Th) 11:30 am – Let’s Do Lunch

Let’s Do Lunch

Thursday, Aug 28
Starlite Room
3300 First Ave NE

Aug 28 (Th) **4:30 pm – The Neighbors’ Table**
Aug 31 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 12 Pentecost**
 5th Sunday Offering

Sept 1 (Mo) **Labor Day** (offices closed)

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

Save the Date
Sunday, September 7 - “God’s Work. Our Hands”



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

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Church Staff

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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!!!