



PARISH PARCHMENT



Holy Redeemer
Lutheran Church

www.holyredeemer.church

Growing to and for Christ!

June 2026



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It is just a few days shy of 3 months since I began my ministry with you, the people of Holy Redeemer. I am so grateful for your welcome, your support, your love and your partnership. It is amazing to experience all of the activities that are happening through this congregation, especially your outreach to the community. I've enjoyed the fellowship that happens at The Neighbors' Table and delight in the number of children present. This past week, I had the opportunity to help serve the meal at Mission of Hope that was hosted by the people of Holy Redeemer. It was heartwarming to share stories with some of the people that had gathered for the meal. I couldn't help but wonder how life might be different if we were more intentional about sharing our life stories with each other, especially with people that live a different reality than we do. This Sunday we will be blessing the gifts collected for the Free Medical Clinic – so many donations have already come forth. **I commend the youth for their leadership in collecting quarters for the Linn Community Food Bank and the last Sunday loose offering for mission outreach.** I am also grateful for the leadership that has stepped forward to help with the summer Peace Camp for Youth and the willingness of the congregation to host a week of camp, July 20th – 24th. Hopefully it will lead to more opportunities for youth and their families to attend and participate in the ministry at Holy Redeemer.

I also acknowledge the gift of music that is present in this congregation. Jackie leads the way with her Sunday leadership including writing her own music and we were especially blessed to have Sam Giese on trumpet, Lily Giese on clarinet and Katie Quandt on the harp and our own Holy Redeemer choir provide special music during the Easter season. May those gifts continue to be shared. Without a doubt music is the window to the soul.

As a community of faith, we are here to welcome everyone as a child of God. And serve those in greatest need. In the midst of our joys and sorrows, our successes and failures, we are connected with one another through God's steadfast love and faithfulness, and nothing can separate us from that love. This is the message I believe we are called to share. As Bishop Curry has said, through God's love, we are connected with each other and with God's creation and together we raise the bar of what it means to be the church of God, sharing God's love through the power of God's Spirit within us and in the world in which we live.

With gratitude and love,
Pastor Franzenburg

“Neighbor’s Sunday”

This Sunday, May 31st has been designated as “Neighbor’s Sunday” - a great follow up to The Neighbors' Table held May 28th, where we hosted an outdoor, picnic gathering. A mailing has been sent out to our “Neighborhood” but we are also encouraging EACH member to invite at least 1 person to join us for “Neighbor’s Sunday”. Let's see if we can top our Easter attendance in response to Jesus' command in this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 28:19) *"Go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit....and remember I am with you always!"* See you in church Sunday!

Council Corner

Coffee & Council met Sunday, May 17. Highlights of their printed reports and meeting minutes include:

Finances: For the month of April, we did not meet our monthly goal of \$15,220. We had a **general fund shortage of \$3,155** and a **building fund shortage of \$659** for a total shortage of \$3,814. For the year, we are short of budget by \$8,313. Our end of April contingency fund balance is \$48,351 and our mortgage balance is \$216,291.

Total year-to-date general fund giving is up 3% from 2025, with a substantial increase in “Other funds.” Building fund offerings are down 3% over last year. Total giving is up 2% from 2025.

Old Business: There was no old business discussed.

New Business: Topics included Block & Roll rental agreement, approval of facility use by Veterans for Peace (Peace Camp), approval to volunteer as a distribution site for HACAP mobile food pantry if needed, approval of moving July Coffee & Council to July 19, sending Sam Giese an application for scholarship (graduating high school seniors), and approval for Earl White and Gwen Leonard to purge church documentation/supplies that are obviously no longer needed or useful, being mindful of items that may be of historical relevance to the church.

Our next Coffee & Council is scheduled for **Sunday, June 14, 2026, at 10:30 am.**

Synod News

Bishop Current Reelected



The Rev. Amy Current, Mount Vernon, Iowa, was reelected on May 15 to serve a second six-year term as bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The election took place during the synod assembly, May 15–16, at First Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The bishop was reelected on the first ballot, with 240 votes out of 297 legal votes cast.

Deacon Schuman Announces Retirement



After five years as a member of the staff of the Office of the Bishop and ten years of ordained ministry, Deacon Jodi Schuman has announced her retirement, effective June 12, 2026.

Join the Synod Team

The **Southeastern Iowa Synod (ELCA)** is seeking a visionary, organized, and relationally-driven leader to serve as the **Associate to the Bishop for Candidacy, Events, and Governance.**

In this pivotal role, you will stand at the intersection of leadership development, synod life, and structural integrity. You will be a primary partner to the Bishop, acting as a guide for those discerning a call to ministry, a master architect of our most significant gatherings, and a trusted resource for the governance that empowers our mission.

More information can be found on the [synod website](#).

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

A Connected Church

Dear siblings in Christ,

As you gather for your synod assembly, I want to express my gratitude for what you are doing — and have been doing — for this church, *our* church.

In the months since I was installed as presiding bishop, I have been focused on connection. Some of you have heard me talk about what it means to be a connected church. This vision of connectedness grows directly out of one of the three priorities we, as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, have named for this season of our life together.

When we lifted up these priorities, we committed ourselves to them not as abstract ideas but as guiding commitments for how we live and serve as church. As I reflected on them, the third priority stood out with particular clarity: to be a connected, sustainable church, raising the bar together.

That priority has been shaping my thinking and my leadership. It asks not just what we do but how we do it — together, across congregations, synods and the churchwide organization. Connectedness is not a program or a slogan; it is a way of being church that recognizes our shared calling and our shared responsibility. This is not my church. It is yours. It is ours, together. The ministries you carry out in your congregations and synods are not just yours — they are ours together.

Over the next several years, you will hear this priority expressed with greater focus and clarity. In 2026, our emphasis is on connection — strengthening relationships, listening deeply and recognizing how much we depend on one another.

In 2027, you will begin to hear me speak more intentionally about sustainability — how we steward our people, our resources and our structures so that our witness remains strong for generations to come. By 2028, connection and sustainability will come together in a shared language of togetherness, as we more fully live into who God is calling us to be as church.

So, when you hear language about being together, it is about living out the ELCA's vision of a world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation. It matters deeply to me that we know who we are, moving forward as one body, trusting God and one another.

I believe this is how connection is built — not by standing alone but by being church together. With gratitude and hope,

The Rev. Yehiel Curry, Presiding Bishop (ELCA)

ELCA Receives Grant

The ELCA has received a new \$1 million grant to continue "Total Inclusion!"—a program helping Lutheran Outdoor Ministries create more welcoming, accessible camp experiences for marginalized youth. The funding will support expanded scholarships, staff training, inclusive programs, and accessibility improvements through 2028. [[More information](#)]

Truth-Seeking, Truth-Telling Initiative

The Truth-Seeking and Truth-Telling Initiative is leading a coordinated effort to research Lutheran involvement in Indian boarding and day schools dating back to the 1820s. We are seeking both clergy and lay volunteers who want to be part of this initiative.

All are welcome, including those with skills in research, data collection, organizing, education, and leadership. The goals are to find and gather information in order to share it with impacted Indigenous individuals, families, and communities; for our church members to know our history of church-sponsored Indian boarding schools and their devastating impacts on Native communities; all as part of an ongoing truth and healing process.

The initiative began in 2022 with 15 synods across four states. In May 2023, it expanded to 27 synods across ten states. The goal now is to expand to all synods across all states. You are invited to [join](#)!

Congregation News

Card Players



Euchre players continue to meet here on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. However, they are in the midst of a brief break. Play will resume on **June 16** — beginning at 12:30 pm. (There will be **no** card players on June 2.) Come for cards, stay for the fellowship! Talk to Lee or Lanny Eggers for details.

Chair Yoga

Chair yoga sessions are scheduled each 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.



Book Discussion Group

Book Discussion Group will meet Thursday, **June 4 (9:30 am)** at church. The hostess is Marlyn Davidson. The book for this month is *The Librarian of Auschwitz* by **Antonio Iturbe**. All are invited — come join us even if you haven't read the book.

Women's Bible Study

Bible Study will meet on Thursday, **June 11 (9:30 am)** at the church. The summer Bible study is entitled *I Am Worthy* by Sarah Olson Smith. Session #1 is entitled *I Am Created in God's Image (No matter what anyone else says)*. The focus verse is: "Let us make humans in our own image, according to our likeness..." (Genesis 1:26a). Come join us for the hour-long study.

Let's Do Lunch



The next Let's Do Lunch will be held on **Thursday, June 11** at **Whiskey River (Palo)** at 11:30 am. (With bridge construction on Covington Road, you will need to use Blairsferry Road to get to Whiskey River.) Please sign up on the bulletin board if you plan to attend.

Adult Coloring

Adult coloring is scheduled for **June 17 from 9:00-11:00 am**. This month the group will meet at Villas at Stoney Point.

DUO (Do Unto Others) Day

DUO will meet at the church on **Tuesday, June 23** and **Tuesday, June 30**, from 9:30 am – 1:30 pm. Come help tie or pin quilts together. Bring your lunch! Thanks to those who have purchased quilts from our quilt sale. If you would like to purchase a quilt, contact Jeri or DeAnna after church.



The DUO Ladies (minus 2)

No Garage Sale in 2026

After some discussion among past coordinators, it was decided that there will be **NO Holy Redeemer Garage Sale** this summer.

Blood Drive – July 2



AMERICA NEEDS BLOOD DONORS

BLOOD DRIVE

**Holy Redeemer & Gloria Dei
Lutheran Churches**

Thursday, July 2 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 atsecretary@holyredeemer.church
or Karen Goedeken at kdgoedeken@gmail.com.

Group Code:
2583
Last Date to Donate Elsewhere:
10/07/26

Good Old Church Potluck – July 12

We have relatives coming from Norway in July. There will be 13 visitors to Cedar Rapids to visit us and other Benton County relatives. The visitors plan to attend worship at Holy Redeemer on **Sunday, July 12** and we're planning a "good old church potluck" after worship at Noon. **The congregation is invited - please help us welcome these folks.** If you plan to attend, please bring a dish to share. (Tableware and drinks will be furnished.) Watch for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board so we know how many to plan for.

Ron & Jeri Hansen
Phil & Connie Hansen
Lee & Lanny Eggers

National Night Out – August 4

Mark your calendar now for National Night Out – August 4. Holy Redeemer will be hosting an event with food, yard games, and a visit from local law enforcement (perhaps a K-9). More details to come as the event nears.

Outreach

Linn Community Food Bank

With the help of worship attendees and our youth who enjoy gathering quarters, our quarter tube has been filling quickly. Nearly \$156 was collected and donated in early May. And the tube is nearly half full again. (Bring your quarters to worship and see it fill up.)

Linn Community Food Bank is always grateful for our contributions. Donations to the quarter tube and loose and designated offerings on the second Sunday of each month all go to the food bank.

Our next designated Food Bank Sunday is **June 14**.

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

Mission of Hope

Holy Redeemer served 125 plates at Mission of Hope on Thursday, May 21. Thanks for all the help we had in preparing, transporting and serving.

Our next meal will be Walking Tacos on **Thursday, June 18**. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board.

Fourth Sunday Offering

The proceeds of our **June 28** fourth Sunday offering are designated for **Cedar Rapids Animal Care & Control**.

The mission of Cedar Rapids Animal Care & Control is to serve and protect with compassion, the animals and citizens of our community through education and enforcement, and to facilitate successful pet adoptions while respecting and striving to improve the quality of life for both pets and people. [More information]

Loose and designated offerings on June 28 will be sent to Cedar Rapids Animal Care & Control.

The Neighbors' Table

The Neighbors' Table Picnic and Yard Games was a success. Many friends and neighbors enjoyed grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, good conversation, and yard games. (Editor's note: I was given an unofficial count of approximately 175 people.)

Our next scheduled Neighbors' Table is **Thursday, June 25, 2026**. The menu includes sub sandwiches, chips, and watermelon among other items.

How to Give to Special Offerings

Donate to Cedar Rapids Animal Care & Control, 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

Monica never imagined she would become a mother.

After a childhood marked by trauma, the devastating loss of her sibling to violence, and years spent in turbulent foster care settings, she made a quiet promise to herself: she would never bring a child into a world that had caused her so much pain. But life has a way of opening doors we never expect. In her thirties, alongside her husband Tim, Monica found herself preparing to welcome a baby girl. Even then, fear and uncertainty lingered.

When Monica heard about LSI's free community baby shower in Le Mars, she hesitated. Social gatherings often triggered her anxiety, but something told her to take a chance. That decision would change everything.

At the event, Monica met Angie, a Family Support Specialist who immediately made her feel safe, seen, and supported. For the first time, Monica felt like she didn't have to navigate motherhood alone. Encouraged by that connection, she took a leap of faith and enrolled in LSI's HOPES (Healthy Opportunities for Parents to Experience Success) program. Soon after, baby Lily was born, and with her came a love that transformed everything.

Today, Monica and Tim eagerly welcome Angie into their home each week. Together they are building the kind of family Monica once believed was out of reach. Monica soaks up every parenting resource she can, applying what she learns with determination and care. Tim is a steady, patient presence. And Lily? She is a joyful, thriving toddler growing exactly as she should be.

But Monica's journey didn't begin with confidence. It began with a single moment of courage and an agency that showed up for her. Because of that one event, Monica found more than support, she found belief in herself. She found the tools to heal, to grow, and to become the loving, capable mother she once thought she could never be.

Stories like Monica's are only possible because of compassionate donors. For more information refer to <https://lsiowa.org/>.

In Our Family

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy birthday wishes to: Lee Eggers, Karma Finn, Amy Renner, and Will Davidson!

Happy anniversary to: Susan & Rick Karns and Tony & Sue Dehl!

Congratulations to recent graduates: Sam Giese (high school) and Nick Hand (Kirkwood).

Ministry of the Month

June 7	Greeter	1 needed
	Reader	Jeri Hansen
	Communion Asst	Jeri Hansen
	Counters	Linda S/1 needed
	Communion Prep	Laura Fowler
June 14	Greeter	Loretta Shannon
	Reader	Loretta Shannon
	Communion Asst	Loretta Shannon
	Counters	2 needed
	Communion Prep	Ronna K/Sarah C
June 21	Greeter	Shari Singelstad
	Reader	Shari Singelstad
	Communion Asst	Shari Singelstad
	Counters	Linda S/1 needed
	Communion Prep	Jeri Hansen
June 28	Greeter	Evelyn Neal
	Reader	Gwen Leonard
	Communion Asst	Jeri Hansen
	Counters	2 needed
	Communion Prep	Laura Fowler
Altar Care (June): Gwen Ehler		

Bits & Pieces

Hello June

Joy finds you when you
 Understand your value and
 Nurish your need
 Even when it feels hard



OurMindfulLife.com

"Spring being a tough act to follow, God created June." — Al Bernstein

"June is the time for being in the world in new ways, for throwing off the cold and dark spots of life."
 — Joan D. Chittister

"There are two seasons when the leaves are in their glory, their green and perfect youth in June and their ripe old age." — Henry David Thoreau

"At midnight, in the month of June, I stand beneath the mystic moon." — Edgar Allan Poe

"I wonder what it would be like to live in a world where it was always June." — L.M. Montgomery

"If you're not barefoot, then you're overdressed."

Future Events

(All Events Tentative and Subject to Change)

June 2026

- June 3 (We)** 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
- June 4 (Th)** 9:30 am – Book Club
- June 7 (Su)** **9:00 am – Worship: 2 Pentecost**
- June 10 (We)** 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
- June 11 (Th)** 9:30 am – Women’s Bible Study
11:30 am – Let’s Do Lunch @
Whiskey River Grill (Palo)
- June 14 (Su)** **9:00 am – Worship: 3 Pentecost**
Food Bank Sunday
10:30 am – Coffee & Council
- June 16 (Tu)** 12:30 pm – Euchre Players
- June 17 (We)** 9:00 am – Adult Coloring @ TBD
11:30 am – Chair Yoga
- June 18 (Th)** **Mission of Hope Meal**
- June 21 (Su)** **Father’s Day**
9:00 am – Worship: 4 Pentecost
10:15 am – Neighbors Table meeting
Newsletter Deadline
- June 23 (Tu)** 9:30 am – DUO Day
- June 24 (We)** 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
- June 25 (Th)** **4:30 pm – Neighbor’s Table**
- June 28 (Su)** **9:00 am – Worship: 5 Pentecost**
4th Sunday Offering
10:15 am – Outreach committee meeting
- June 30 (Tu)** 9:30 am – DUO Day

July 2026

- July 1 (We)** 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
- July 2 (Th)** 9:30 am – Book Club
3:00 pm – **Summer Blood Drive**
- July 4 (Sa)** **Independence Day**
Happy 250th America!
- July 5 (Su)** **9:00 am – Worship: 6 Pentecost**
- July 7 (Tu)** 12:30 pm – Euchre Players
- July 8 (We)** 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
- July 9 (Th)** 9:30 am – Women’s Bible Study
11:30 am – Let’s Do Lunch @
Napoli’s
- July 12 (Su)** **9:00 am – Worship: 7 Pentecost**
Food Bank Sunday
10:30 am – Coffee & Council
12:00 pm – Church Potluck
- July 15 (We)** 9:00 am – Adult Coloring @ TBD
11:30 am – Chair Yoga
- July 16 (Th)** **Mission of Hope Meal**
- July 19 (Su)** **9:00 am – Worship: 8 Pentecost**
10:15 am – Outreach committee meeting
- July 20 (Mo)–July 24 (Fr)**
9:00 am – 3:00 pm: Peace Camp (tent)
- July 21 (Tu)** 12:30 pm – Euchre Players
- July 22 (We)** 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
- July 24 (Fr)** 11:30 am – Habitat Home Lunch
- July 26 (Su)** **9:00 am – Worship: 9 Pentecost**
4th Sunday Offering
10:15 am – Neighbors’ Table meeting
- July 28 (Tu)** 9:30 am – DUO Day
- July 29 (We)** 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
- July 30 (Th)** **4:30 pm – Neighbor’s Table**

Wednesdays – Admin out of office Friday mornings – Cleaner Image (Mike)
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Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church
720 Edgewood Road NW
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52405

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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!!!