



PARISH PARCHMENT



Holy Redeemer
Lutheran Church

www.holyredeemer.church

Growing to and for Christ!

November 2025

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“I join my voice with ELCA bishop colleagues in this letter below. I invite you to read, reflect, and join together in prayer, advocacy, and action centered in God’s love.” – Bishop Amy Current

A Letter from Bishops of the ELCA to the Church (October 8, 2025)

Beloved in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we write to you in this moment of national and global tension with clarity and conviction. Our faith compels us to stand where Jesus stands—with and for those whom society often seeks to exclude, erase, or diminish.

Our shared confession that every person is created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27) grounds us in the conviction that all people possess inherent dignity. The incarnation of Jesus Christ reveals God’s profound solidarity with humanity—especially with those who are marginalized or oppressed. The gospel we proclaim insists that our neighbor’s need is the occasion for our love and that our public life is shaped by justice, mercy, and a commitment to the common good.

Further, we have a shared tradition in our social teachings which grounds us. The ELCA’s Social Message on Immigration reminds us: “We are to respond to newcomers as we would to Christ—welcoming them, meeting their immediate needs, and advocating for justice in our laws and policies.” Likewise, our recently adopted Social Statement Faith and Civic Life affirms that Christians are called to be “a public witness, holding leaders accountable when they fail to protect the vulnerable.”

We are living through a time when vulnerable communities are being scapegoated and attacked. Immigrants and refugees are vilified, though Scripture commands us to welcome the stranger. People of color continue to bear the devastating weight of racism woven into the fabric of our society. Transgender people, beloved by God, are being targeted with laws and rhetoric that deny their dignity and even their right to exist. These assaults on our siblings are not political abstractions—they are deep wounds in the body of Christ.

In this time of division and fear, we, as people grounded in our faith, insist on love. This commitment flows from our faith in Christ crucified and risen—the One whose love breaks down barriers, confronts hatred, and transforms hearts. Love insists on the dignity of every human being. Love insists on justice for the marginalized and oppressed. Love insists that the church must reflect God’s diverse, life-giving community. Love insists that we listen, speak, and act with respect, even in disagreement. Love insists on hope, trusting that God’s kingdom of justice and peace will prevail.

This love also compels us to speak clearly against Christian Nationalism, which our Churchwide Assembly named as a distortion of the Christian faith and an unhealthy form of patriotism. Christian Nationalism confuses the Gospel with political power, turns God into a mascot for the state, and privileges some people over others based on race, religion, or birthplace. This is not the way of Jesus. The kingdom of God is not a nation, not a culture, not a political ideology—it is God’s reign of love, justice, and mercy for all people.

Therefore, as bishops of this church, we declare that the ELCA cannot be silent. Our call is clear:

- To proclaim the God-given dignity of every human being.
- To resist systems and ideologies, including Christian Nationalism, that oppress, dehumanize, or erase.
- To stand shoulder to shoulder with those who are targeted or harmed.
- To bear public witness that the love of Christ is stronger than fear, stronger than hatred, and stronger than death.

We call on all members of the ELCA to join us in prayer, advocacy, and action:

- Pray for those who are vulnerable and for all who work for justice.
- Advocate in your communities, legislatures, and Congress for laws that protect migrants, advance racial justice, and safeguard LGBTQIA+ people.
- Engage in the holy work of hospitality, creating spaces of safety, affirmation, and belonging for all God's children.
- Model respectful dialogue in a polarized world, seeking understanding rooted in love.
- Hold fast to hope, trusting that the Spirit is still at work renewing creation and reconciling the world to God.

In baptism, we are marked with the cross of Christ forever. That cross is not only a sign of our hope—it is also a summons to follow Jesus into solidarity with those who suffer. In the power of the Spirit, let us be bold. Let us be faithful. Let us Insist on Love—in our words, our actions, our public witness, and our life together.

Together in Christ,

[List of synod bishop names omitted for space]

Other Synod News



Bishop Current to Tanzania

Bishop Amy Current (and a delegation from Des Moines and Ames) traveled to Tanzania to visit our companion dioceses of Pare and Mwanga in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. The visit centered around the Golden Jubilee celebration of the Pare Diocese on October 19, 2025. The delegation returned home on October 29.

We give thanks to God for our enduring partnerships with Bishop Mjema and the Pare Diocese and Bishop Mono and the Mwanga Diocese, and pray for safe travels and joyful celebrations for all who journey in Christ's name.

Dwelling in the Word

Dwelling in the Word is a 20-30 minute practice of engaging God's Word as a gathered community as together we listen for and reflect on the Holy Spirit's nudging as we reflect on Scripture. Dwelling in the Word forms faith and trust within a group (of any size) by sharing responses to three questions:

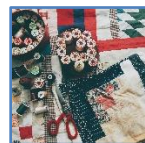
- What do I notice?
- What do I wonder?
- How might the Holy Spirit be nudging me/us?

Dwelling in the Word is not about answering questions or getting to results but rather allowing ourselves to be present with God's living Word.

Dwelling in the Word does not require a leader or participants steeped in biblical scholarship but instead invites all to be curious, open, and engaged.

As we live into our 2025 Synod Assembly theme, "Spirit, Open Our Hearts", all synod meetings will include a time of Dwelling in the Word, and congregations are encouraged to engage in Dwelling in the Word at council meetings, committee meetings, Bible studies, confirmation, youth meetings, and other gatherings.

Click [here](#) for more information.



Peace be with You

As the synod prepares for the 2026 Assembly, congregations are invited to create and contribute handmade prayer shawls, lap quilts, or quilts under the theme "Peace be with You."

We are deeply aware of the creativity and dedication that lives within our congregations especially among those who knit, crochet, and sew. Whether your congregation already has a prayer shawl or quilting ministry, or if individuals would like to begin, we celebrate the beauty and comfort that your artwork brings. If you, or your congregation, are interested in being part of this gift of peace, learn more [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.

Council Corner

Holy Redeemer's Council met on Thursday, October 9. Here are a few highlights from their printed reports and meeting minutes:

Finances: For the month of September, we did not meet our monthly goal of \$16,017. We had a **general fund shortage of \$6,004** and a **building fund shortage of \$921** for a total shortage of \$6,925. Total year-to-date general fund giving is up 4% over 2024. Building fund offerings are up 30% over last year. And total giving for 2025 is 7% higher than 2024. With offerings down, mission support giving was also lower, which allowed \$488 to be moved to the contingency fund. The contingency fund balance was \$20,837 at the end of September. End of September mortgage balance was \$231,477.

Old Business Topics: Old business discussions included an Eagle Scout project update and an update on the constitution review.

New Business Topics: New business included planning for Pastor Stubbs visit on October 26, nominating committee review, audit committee review, and finance committee review as well as 2026 budget planning, and setting the date for the annual meeting – Sunday, January 25, 2026.

The next regular council meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, November 13, 2025, at 7:00 pm.**

ELCA News

Spirit in the Desert

Are you curious about the natural sciences' connection with Christian theology? If so, the *Living Into a New Story: A Spirited Assessment of the Christian Story in the Light of Earth-based Wisdom and Today's Sciences* Retreat in Carefree, AZ, from **Friday, January 16–Monday, January 19**, is for you! Learn more and register [\[here\]](#).

"This retreat was amazing! The intersection of Christian thought and the science of creation was explored, and I found myself challenged and enlightened. Having a group of people to reflect and worship with led to many new friendships. And the beauty of the desert made this retreat one I will not forget." – Sister LaDonna, 2025 retreat participant

Congregation News

Card Players



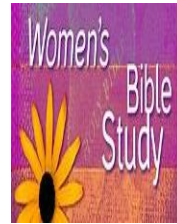
Card players will be in action the first and third Tuesdays – **November 4** and **November 18** – beginning at 12:30 pm here at the church. Come for cards, stay for the fellowship ... (and treats)! This is lively bunch that always has a good time.

Chair Yoga

Chair yoga sessions will be held **November 5, 12, and 19** (unless you hear otherwise from Jeri or Shari). There will be NO session on November 26. All sessions begin at **11:30 am** 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, November 6** at 9:30 am. The fall study is ***Money, Stewardship, and Generosity*** by Rev. Christa von Zychlin. Session 3 is *Stewardship: There's a Wildness in God's Mercy*.

Copies of the study can be found in notebook under the Women's bulletin board. All are welcome – come when you can!

Book Discussion Group

Book Discussion Group will meet at church on **Thursday, November 13 at 9:30 am**. The hostess is Laura Fowler. The book for November is *Briar Club* by Kate Quinn. Bring your book ideas for 2026! All are invited! If you haven't read the book, come and see if you'd like to read it.

Evening Bible Study

The Bible study, "What Lutherans Believe," led by Pastor Randy Kasch will continue through November 17 on Monday evenings from 6:00-7:00 pm. You are welcome to join any session. While sessions may build a bit on past ones, you can still pick up and learn something new with each one.

Let's Do Lunch



The final Let's Do Lunch of 2025 will be held at **Kirkwood's Class Act** on **Friday, November 21** at 11:30 am. It's no longer just a lady's lunch – all are welcome. *Firm reservations are*

needed for this lunch, so please be sure to sign up on the bulletin board. If you have any questions, talk to Lee Eggers.

DUO (Do Unto Others) Day

DUO will meet at the church on **Tuesday, November 25** from 9:30 am – 1:30 pm. Come help tie or pin quilts together. Bring your lunch!

Adult Coloring

Adult coloring will meet at Panera's on November 19 from 9:00-11:00 am. In January, adult coloring will meet at the Ladd Library.

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

CROP Walk Results

On Sunday, October 12, nine human walkers and one dog raised \$802 for the CROP Walk, including a generous donation from former members, Jean & Gordy Stelling. While the total was less than Holy Redeemer raised in recent years, it was still a good contribution for a congregation of our size. Thanks to all who participated and/or contributed.



Mission of Hope

Thanks also to those who bought groceries, prepared the food, transported and served the Mission of Hope meal in October. We served 137 plates and ran out of food for the second month. Everyone appreciated our meal. We will serve goulash for our November meal on **Thursday, November 20**.

Our Mission of Hope funds are running low, but Shari is looking into different funding opportunities. If you would like to designate funds to Mission of Hope, simply indicate on your offering envelope. Thanks!

Our December meal has been changed to Wednesday, December 17 and we will not be serving a meal in January. In both cases, Mount Vernon high school is scheduled to serve, but can only do so on the third Thursday of the month.

Linn Community Food Bank

The Linn Community Food Bank is always grateful for our generous donations of food and cash. We receive regular letters of thanks from them – pinned to the bulletin board when there is adequate space. Second Sunday loose offerings, designated amounts, and our "quarter tube" all go to support the food bank. Our next designated Food Bank Sunday is **November 9**.

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

Fourth Sunday Offering

Christmas Gift Cards

The proceeds of our **November 23** fourth Sunday offering was designated for our Christmas family(ies) through Mission of Hope.

After much discussion with women in different groups and at Shari's suggestion, all agreed that we are moving away from sponsoring Christmas families and buying gifts. After discussing with Mission of Hope staff, they suggested buying \$10 Casey gift cards so they can distribute for gas and other needs.

Shari will be collecting these cards – or if you prefer, she can take cash and purchase cards for you. Please tape the receipt to the back in case there is an issue with the card. Shari will collect cards/cash from Thanksgiving weekend until the week of Christmas.

The angels that we have had up in the past will be up the entire time and Shari is trying to update those as people have asked about putting up new ones. Shari will have more on this project soon.

Fifth Sunday Offering

ELCA God's Global Barnyard

The proceeds of our **November 30** fifth Sunday offering will go to God's Global Barnyard.

Your gifts to God's Global Barnyard support the sustainable development ministries of ELCA World Hunger, which include training, education, resources (and much more) to help the community care for animals and create new market opportunities like starting a small business selling eggs, meat, or dairy products. Your gifts support this comprehensive approach to animal husbandry.

How to Give to Special Offerings

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

Any amounts designated for November fourth Sunday offering will go toward gift cards for Mission of Hope.

In Our Family

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy birthday wishes to: Ava Dufoe, Samantha Schwarz, Lovenia Brown, Allison Hubbell, Nicole Hubbell, Max Doser, Jon Singelstad, and others, who shall remain nameless!

Anniversary congratulations to: Brandy & Mark Gilbert.

Our Sympathy

Heart-felt condolences go out to Ronna Krueger, at the loss of her sister-in-law, Linda, and to John Quandt, at the loss of his last living uncle, Wilbert. We extend our sympathies to both families.

Moves

Lee & Lanny Eggers have recently moved – though still with a house to sell. Their new address is: 1818 Stoney Point RD SW, Apt 116, Cedar Rapids IA. 52404.

If the address sounds familiar, it's because a growing percentage of our membership has moved to Villas at Stoney Point.

Ministry of the Month

Nov 2	Greeter	Evelyn Neal
	Asst Minister	Tracy Kisling
	Reader	Jeri Hansen
	Communion Asst	Jeri Hansen
	Counters	2 needed
	Communion Prep	Smiths
Nov 9	Greeter	1 needed
	Asst Minister	Tony Dehl
	Reader	1 needed
	Communion Asst	1 needed
	Counters	2 needed
	Communion Prep	Ronna K/Steve A
Nov 16	Greeter	1 needed
	Asst Minister	1 needed
	Reader	1 needed
	Communion Asst	1 needed
	Counters	2 needed
	Communion Prep	Laura Fowler
Nov 23	Greeter	Shari Singelstad
	Asst Minister	1 needed
	Reader	Shari Singelstad
	Communion Asst	Shari Singelstad
	Counters	2 needed
	Communion Prep	Laura Fowler
Nov 30	Greeter	1 needed
	Asst Minister	1 needed
	Reader	Jeri Hansen
	Communion Asst	Jeri Hansen
	Counters	2 needed
	Communion Prep	Jeri Hansen
Altar Care (November): Praise Team		

Volunteers Needed: Based on the above schedule, we clearly need more folks to vounteer to help with worship services. In particular, with Loretta leaving for Arizona, we could use one or two assisting ministers to give Tracy a break from time to time. Laura Fowler also noted that we need one or two more for communion prep – done immediately before worship on Sunday morning. The signup sheet is on the table below the TV monitor and has been available for several weeks. Please sign up as you are able. Thank you!

Bits & Pieces

Hello November

Not everyone gets you, but it's
Okay, because when you
Value your time, attention and
Energy, you attract
More people who see your
Beauty and worth. Own your
Enoughness, and the
Right ones will find you

OurMindfulLife.com



"Welcome November, bringing calm winds and warm hearts." — Unknown

"Fear not November's challenge bold—
We've books and friends,
And hearths that never can grow cold:
These make amends!"
— Alexander Louis Fraser

**Whenever it is a damp, drizzly November
in my soul, I shall recall the memory of
warm, sunny, late summer afternoons
like this one, and be comforted greatly.**

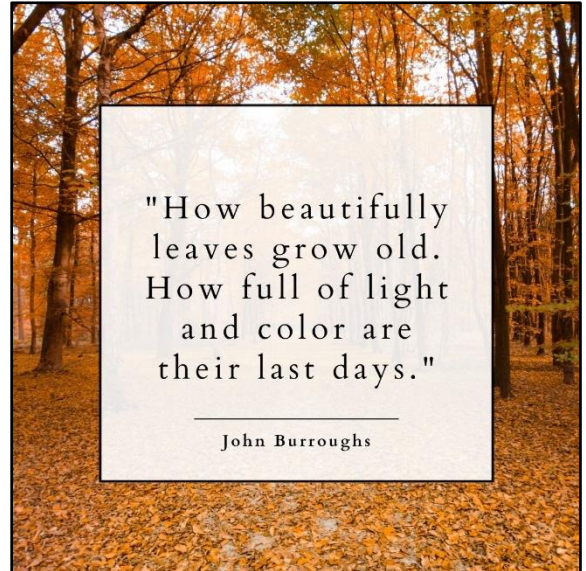
~ Peggy Toney Horton

"'No'-vember – a time to say 'no' to people, places, and things that drain your energy." — Anonymous

"November comes and November goes. With the last red berries and the first white snows. With night coming early and dawn coming late, and ice in the bucket and frost by the gate. The fires burn, and the kettles sing, and earth sinks to rest until next spring." — Clyde Watson

"November at its best—with a sort of delightful menace in the air." — Anne Bosworth Greene

"In November, even the silence feels warm, like a hug you didn't know you needed." — Unknown



"How beautifully
leaves grow old.
How full of light
and color are
their last days."

John Burroughs

"In November, we find beauty in endings and strength in the promise of new beginnings. Welcome, sweet month of reflection."
— Unknown

"November is chill, frosted mornings with a silver sun rising behind the trees, red cardigans, and the smell of warm bread." — Charmaine J. Forde



Fallen leaves lying on the grass in the
November sun bring more happiness
than the daffodils.

- Cyril Connolly

"How sad would be November if we had no knowledge of the spring." — Edwin Way Teale

Pictures

October 26 Meeting with Pastor LeAnne Stubbs (Southeastern Iowa Synod)

(Photo credits: Lanny Eggers)



Future Events

(All Events Tentative and Subject to Change)

November 2025

- Nov 1 (Sa)** **All Saints Day**
Nov 2 (Su) **Daylight Saving Time Ends**
 9:00 am – Worship: All Saints
Nov 4 (Tu) 12:30 pm – Card Players
 6:00 pm – Bible Study w/ Pr. Kasch
Nov 5 (We) 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
Nov 6 (Th) 9:30 am – Women’s Bible Study
Nov 9 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 22 Pentecost**
 Food Bank Sunday
 10:15 am – Communion Care meeting
Nov 10 (Mo) 6:00 pm – Bible Study w/ Pr. Kasch
Nov 11 (Tu) **Veteran’s Day**
Nov 12 (We) 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
Nov 13 (Th) 9:30 am – Book Club
 7:00 pm – Council Meeting
Nov 16 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 23 Pentecost**
 10:15 am – Neighbors Table meeting
Nov 17 (Mo) 6:00 pm – Bible Study w/ Pr. Kasch
Nov 18 (Tu) 12:30 pm – Card Players
Nov 19 (We) 9:00 am – Adult Coloring @ Panera
 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
Nov 20 (Th) **Mission of Hope Meal**
 4:30 pm –Neighbors Table
 Newsletter Deadline
Nov 21 (Fr) 11:30 am – Let’s Do Lunch

Let’s Do Lunch

Friday, November 21
Class Act at Kirkwood

- Nov 23 (Su)** **9:00 am – Worship: Christ the King**
 4th Sunday Offering
 10:30 am – Coffee with Council
Nov 25 (Tu) 9:30 am – DUO Day
Nov 26 (We) **7:00 pm – Worship: Thanksgiving**
 Eve @ Gloria Dei
Nov 27 (Th) **Thanksgiving Day** (offices closed)
Nov 28 (Fr) **Black Friday** (offices closed)
Nov 30 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 1 Advent**
 5th Sunday Offering

December 2025

- Dec 2 (Tu)** 12:30 pm – Card Players
Dec 3 (We) 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
Dec 4 (Th) 9:30 am – Women’s Bible Study
Dec 7 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 2 Advent**
Dec 10 (We) 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
Dec 11 (Th) 9:30 am – Book Club
 7:00 pm – Council Meeting
Dec 14 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 3 Advent**
 10:15 am – Neighbors Table meeting
Dec 16 (Tu) 12:30 pm – Card Players
Dec 17 (We) **Mission of Hope Meal**
 9:00 am – Adult Coloring @ Ladd
 Library
 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
Dec 18 (Th) **4:30 pm –Neighbors Table**
Dec 21 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 4 Advent**
 Newsletter Deadline
Dec 23 (Tu) 9:30 am – DUO Day
Dec 24 (We) **7:00 pm – Worship: Christmas Eve**
Dec 25 (Th) **9:00 am – Worship: Christmas Day**
 (Offices closed)
Dec 28 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 1 Christmas**
 4th Sunday Offering
 10:30 am – Coffee with Council
Dec 30 (Tu) 9:30 am – DUO Day
Dec 31 (We) **New Year’s Eve**
 11:30 am – Chair Yoga

January 2026

- Jan 1 (Th)** **New Year’s Day** (offices closed)
Jan 4 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 2 Christmas**

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 25 – 10:30 am
(Reports due Sunday, January 11)

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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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!!!