



PARISH PARCHMENT



Holy Redeemer
Lutheran Church

www.holyredeemer.church

Growing to and for Christ!

September 2026



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“Woven Together in Love”

The opportunities and gifts of Holy Redeemer continue to grow and develop in mysterious and glorious ways. A new idea springs forth, and people respond in loving and supportive ways. I believe that is part of the gift of who you are.

Tuesday evening, August 18th I attended an Interfaith Gathering at Prairie Wood’s and was delighted to hear your former Pastor, Cedric Loftdahl, was a key person in organizing the Inter-Religious Council of Linn County and served as the first Chairperson. Today as our community says “Farewell” to Imam Taha Tawil, we remember Pastor Loftdahl and his commitment to Interfaith dialogue. You, the people of Holy Redeemer, were part of that.

Today, we welcome Grace Compassion Church and its members from the Congo. They are so grateful for your willingness to open your doors and share your building. Their presence here and their members, especially their youth, is what is making it possible for us to explore a Wednesday night education and fellowship opportunity for our youth and our community. Although we are still in the “Exploration Stage” we are very hopeful that we will have a program on Wednesday evenings that will include both education and fun activities, a family meal and a short worship service combining our worship traditions and involving our youth. We hope to begin the program on September 9th. If you have ideas and want to be involved, please call the church office at 319-396-8547. This Wednesday evening program may also include an opportunity for adult education.

Truly it is an honor for me to be serving as your Interim Pastor. The more I get to know you, the more I appreciate the gift of who you are and your commitment to sharing God’s love with each other, the community, our nation and God’s world. It reminds me of this hymn:

“All Are Welcome”

*Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

Pastor Franzenburg

Council Corner

Coffee & Council met Sunday, August 9. Highlights of their printed reports and meeting minutes include:

Finances: July financial statements were not available, but for the month of June, we did not meet our monthly goal of \$15,220. We had a **general fund shortage of \$6,999** and a **building fund shortage of \$1,033** for a total shortage of \$8,032. Our year-to-date shortage is \$19,382 (more than one full month behind in the first six months of the year). Our end of June contingency fund balance is \$34,446 and our mortgage balance is \$212,245.

Old Business: There was no old business discussed.

New Business: Topics included the Holiday Bazaar being organized by Jackie, Michelle Beyer, and Ashley Fries; parking lot painting; recommendation for cleaning up accounts on the financials; and handling of income from Grace Compassion Church.

Pastor reported on challenges, including: education programs – who and what are we expecting; how do we grow our church; addressing financial concerns; partnerships in the community; getting to know members of Holy Redeemer; and acknowledging that council meetings after worship limit pastor's time to interact with the congregation.

Our next Coffee & Council is scheduled for **Sunday, September 13, 2026, at 10:30 am.**

Synod News

LSM On Demand

The 2026 Lutheran Summer Music (LSM) Academy & Festival season may be over, but the inspiring music continues online.

Watch more than 40 concerts, worship services, recitals, and special events from this summer whenever it's convenient for you. Catch up on the performances you missed or experience your favorite moments again with LSM On Demand.

Enjoy the Bach Cantata Eucharist, Festival of Hymns, plus performances by the Festival Band, Choir, and Orchestra, and many more joyful moments from this summer's season.

Visit LSMacademy.org/on-demand to browse replays and start watching today!

Synod Fall Gathering

The Southeastern Iowa Synod will gather for worship, learning, fellowship, and connection at the 2026 Synod Fall Gathering, held **September 27–30**, at **St. Paul Lutheran Church in Davenport**. [Registration](#) is open now.

The gathering will officially begin with dinner at 5:00 PM on Sunday, September 27, and conclude at 12:00 PM on Tuesday, September 29. Centered on the theme of Storytelling and Story Sharing, participants will explore stories from Scripture and their own lives of faith. The event will feature keynote leaders Rolf Jacobson (Luther Seminary) and Melissa Wiginton (Austin Presbyterian Seminary), along with musical fellowship from The Fleshpots of Egypt.

This gathering is open to all pastors and deacons who are serving in calls, SAMs, interns, and lay ministry professionals.

Pastor Franzenburg will be attending this gathering, so she will not be in the office Monday, September 28 or Tuesday, September 29.

Planned Giving & Generosity Workshop

Join ELCA Foundation Regional Gift Planner Stephen Phelps and Southeastern Iowa Synod Associate to the Bishop for Finance Amy Van Dyke for a virtual Planned Giving and Generosity Workshop on **Thursday, September 24**. Two sessions are available to accommodate your schedule: 10:00–11:30 AM or 6:00–7:30 PM.

This workshop is designed for church councils, stewardship and finance committees, pastors, administrators, ministry leaders, and congregation members who want to strengthen their congregation's approach to generosity and planned giving.

Participants will discover how a comprehensive stewardship strategy includes both current giving and planned giving, helping ensure that your congregation and the ministries of the ELCA have the resources to carry out God's mission for generations to come. Click [\[here\]](#) to register to attend.

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 Issues Statement

Bishop Curry issues his fourth in a series of monthly messages that continue through the end of this year, titled "All together in one place." [[Read the full statement here.](#)]

Congregation News

Chair Yoga

Chair yoga sessions are scheduled each Wednesday at 11:30 am. 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 at the church on **Thursday, September 3** at 9:30 am. The book for September is *Map of the Heart* by Susan Wiggs. All are welcome; come even if you haven't read the book.

Women's Bible Study

Bible Study will meet on Thursday, **September 10 (9:30 am)** at the church. The fall Bible study is entitled ***Bold Faith on an Unexpected Journey*** by the Rev. Tiffany Chaney. *Faith often leads us down paths we didn't expect—into wilderness places, across unfamiliar lands, and through seasons of grief and hope. This three-session study takes us on a journey with Hagar, Ruth and Mary Magdalene, women whose bold faith transformed their unexpected stories. Their encounters with God remind us that we, too, are seen, sustained and sent to carry good news into the world.* Session #1 is entitled ***Encountering God in the wilderness***. Scripture: Genesis 16:1-16; 21:8-21. Come join us for the hour-long study.

Let's Do Lunch



The next Let's Do Lunch will be held on **Thursday, September 10** at **Lucky's** (86 16th Ave SW) at 11:30 am. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you plan to attend. Talk to Shari Singelstad if you have questions.

Adult Coloring

Adult coloring is scheduled for **September 16** 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, September 22** and again on **Tuesday, September 29**, from 9:30 am – 1:30 pm. Come help tie or pin quilts together. Bring your lunch! If you wish to purchase a quilt, contact Jeri or DeAnna after church.

Grace Compassion Church



If you have stayed for fellowship or meetings after worship in the past few weeks, you may have noticed some new folks in the building. We are sharing our sanctuary with Grace Compassion Church (Congo). They have beautiful sounding worship from 1:00-4:00 pm on Sunday afternoon. They arrive before 1:00 to set up their own PA system and instruments.

In addition to sharing worship space with them, there are plans for a combined Wednesday after school youth group starting in September.

Holiday Bazaar

Holy Redeemer will be hosting its 31st annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, October 24, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. There will be plenty of crafts, baked goods, and quilts to choose from. For more information, reached out to one of this year's coordinators – Jackie Murphy, Michelle Beyer, or Ashley Fries.

Trunk or Treat

Make plans now to deck out your car, truck, or van for Halloween. Bring some treats and see all the youngsters (and young at heart) in costume. This event is scheduled for Saturday, October 31 from 4:30-6:30 pm in the Holy Redeemer parking lot.

Outreach

Linn Community Food Bank

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

Our next designated Food Bank Sunday is **September 13**.

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

Mission of Hope

Our August day for serving at Mission of Hope was requested by Kirkwood Culinary School, so we did not serve a meal in August. This provided a nice break – from purchasing food, cooking, transporting, and serving – for our group and allowed another group to provide a meal.

We are back on their schedule with walking tacos and corn on **Thursday, September 17**. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board.

Fourth Sunday Offering

The proceeds of our **September 27** fourth Sunday offering are designated for **CROP Walk**.

CROP Hunger Walks are community-based walk fundraising events held in cities and towns across the United States, created to support the global mission of [Church World Service](https://www.cwservice.org/), a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. After a CROP Walk ends, 25% of the funds raised are returned to the host community to support local hunger fighting efforts.

The Neighbors' Table

The Neighbors' Table was held August 27. 104 hungry neighbors were fed walking tacos, a variety of side dishes, dessert, and beverages.

Our next scheduled Neighbors' Table is **Thursday, September 24, 2026**. The menu includes meatballs, boiled potatoes, green beans, cottage cheese, and cookies along with beverages.

LSI

For several years, LSI sent a monthly article for churches to use in their newsletters and bulletins. Recently, these articles have become less frequent. As a result, rather than its own section in the newsletter, LSI will appear in the Outreach section when they have news to share. If you are interested in learning more about LSI, you can find their website at <https://lsiowa.org/>.

How to Give to Special Offerings

Donate to CROP Walk, Linn Community Food Bank, Mission of Hope, Neighbors' Table, LSI, 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.

Habitat for Humanity

On August 27, Shari attended another Habitat Home dedication and presented a quilt made by our DUO ladies. While I don't have a picture of the family, I did receive a picture of "quilters in action."



Thank You

"Thank you for helping open the door to opportunity. Because of your generosity, families are building safe, stable places to call home. Your support is opening doors – one family, one future, one home at a time."

— Brittany Scanlon, Executive Director
Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity
(\$532 sent following July 4th weekend offering.)

“Thank you for your contribution to Linn Community Food Bank on July 29, 2026. Your donation of \$50 allows us to continue our mission of helping individuals and families with food insecurity. We could not operate our food bank without the generous support of our donors.”

— Brian Westphalen, Board President
Linn Community Food Bank

In Our Family

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy birthday wishes to:

Tami Ketchum, Earl White, Ruth Teggatz, Rick Karns, Matt Hand, Marsha Torrey, Helen Andrews, Jim Veglahn, Bryan Kisling, Elliott Giese, Phil Hansen, Shari Singelstad, and Eleanor Thorpe!

Happy anniversary to:

Marcia & Lane Prochnow, Brett Nitzschke & Barb Grant, Lee & Lanny Eggers, Marlyn & Bill Davidson, Carol & Randy Rentschler, Donetta & Rob Heathman!

Hydrangea planted in honor of Pastor’s birthday



Jon Singelstad received a quilt a few years after his ROTC services in college



Ministry of the Month

Sept 6	Greeter Reader Communion Asst Counters Communion Prep	Evelyn Neal John Fuoto Loretta Shannon Loretta/ 1 needed Jeri Hansen
Sept 13	Greeter Reader Communion Asst Counters Communion Prep	1 needed Gwen Leonard Loretta Shannon 2 needed Laura Fowler
Sept 20	Greeter Reader Communion Asst Counters Communion Prep	1 needed Jeri Hansen Gwen Leonard 2 needed Sarah C/Ronna K
Sept 27	Greeter Reader Communion Asst Counters Communion Prep	Shari Singelstad Shari Singelstad Shari Singelstad Loretta/ 1 needed Jeri Hansen
Altar Care (September): Loretta Shannon		

Bits & Pieces

"Just like that summer falls into September!"
— Anonymous

"September is the perfect blend of summer's farewell and autumn's embrace." — Unknown



"All months are crude experiments, out of which the perfect September is made." — Virginia Woolf

"It was a lovely afternoon — such an afternoon as only September can produce when summer has stolen back for one more day of dream and glamour." — L.M. Montgomery

"Happily we bask in the warm September sun, which illuminates all creatures." — Henry David Thoreau



"September... I never tire of turning it over and over in my mind. It has warmth, depth, and colour. It glows like old amber." — Patience Strong



"Nostalgia – that's the autumn, dreaming through September. Just a million lovely things I will always remember." — Jacqueline Kennedy Onasis



"When you are reluctant to change, think of the beauty of autumn." — V.V. Brown



Future Events

(All Events Tentative and Subject to Change)

September 2026

- Sep 2 (We) 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
 Sep 3 (Th) 9:30 am – Book Club
 Sep 6 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 15 Pentecost**
 1:00-4:00 pm – Grace Compassion Church worship
 Sep 7 (Mo) **Labor Day** (offices closed)
 Sep 9 (We) 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
 Sep 10 (Th) 9:30 am – Women’s Bible Study
 11:30 am – Let’s Do Lunch @ Lucky’s (86 16th Ave SW)
 Sep 13 (Su) **God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday**
9:00 am – Worship: 16 Pentecost
 Food Bank Sunday
10:30 am – Coffee & Council
 1:00-4:00 pm – Grace Compassion Church worship
 Sep 16 (We) 9:00 am – Adult Coloring @ TBD
 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
 Sep 17 (Th) **Mission of Hope Meal**
 Sep 20 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 17 Pentecost**
 10:15 am – Outreach committee
 1:00-4:00 pm – Grace Compassion Church worship
11:59 pm – Newsletter Deadline
 Sep 22 (Tu) 9:30 am – DUO Day
 Sep 23 (We) 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
 Sep 24 (Th) **4:30 pm – Neighbor’s Table**
 Sep 26 (Sa) **9:30 am – HOPE Walk @ Cherry Hill**
 Park (Registration at 8:30)
 Sep 27 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 18 Pentecost**
 4th Sunday Offering
 10:15 am – Neighbors’ Table meeting
 1:00-4:00 pm – Grace Compassion Church worship
 Sep 29 (Tu) 9:30 am – DUO Day
 Sep 30 (We) 11:30 am – Chair Yoga

October 2026

- Oct 1 (Th) 9:30 am – Book Club (R. Tegatz)
 Oct 4 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 19 Pentecost**
 1:00-4:00 pm – Grace Compassion Church worship
 Oct 7 (We) 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
 Oct 8 (Th) 9:30 am – Women’s Bible Study
 11:30 am – Let’s Do Lunch @ **TBD**
 Oct 11 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 20 Pentecost**
 Food Bank Sunday
10:30 am – Coffee & Council
 1:00-4:00 pm – Grace Compassion Church worship
1:30 am – CROP Walk @ Thomas
 Park (Marion)
 Oct 14 (We) 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
 Oct 15 (Th) **Mission of Hope Meal**
 Oct 18 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 21 Pentecost**
 10:15 am – Outreach committee
 1:00-4:00 pm – Grace Compassion Church worship
 Oct 20 (Tu) **11:59 pm – Newsletter Deadline**
 Oct 21 (We) 9:00 am – Adult Coloring @ TBD
 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
 Oct 24 (Sa) **9:00 am – 5:00 pm – Holiday Bazaar**
 Oct 25 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: Reformation**
 4th Sunday Offering
 10:15 am – Neighbors’ Table meeting
 1:00-4:00 pm – Grace Compassion Church worship
 Oct 27 (Tu) 9:30 am – DUO Day
 Oct 28 (We) 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
 Oct 29 (Th) **4:30 pm – Neighbor’s Table**
 Oct 31 (Sa) **Reformation Day & Halloween**
4:30-6:30 pm – “Trunk or Treat”

November 2026

- Nov 1 (Sun) **Daylight Saving Time ends (we think)**
9:00 am – Worship: All Saints
 1:00-4:00 pm – Grace Compassion Church worship

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!!!