

The Parish Beacon

Volume 41– No. 07

August 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It sure has been a year to remember, hasn't it? Before going out on Vicarage, I was told that this year would shape me in ways I couldn't have imagined. Even then, I'm sure none of us saw something like the Coronavirus coming our way. The year 2020 certainly has been a year for the books. From the first day I arrived here at Our Redeemer, I constantly heard of Vicars being used to mark the passage of time. It wasn't uncommon for me to hear, "Was that during Vicar Scheele's time? I guess it could have been Wolfram or maybe even Adelson, definitely not as recent as Otterman though."

Certainly, it's one of the many blessings you have as the people of Our Redeemer. To mark time with the Vicars who have been blessed to serve here. It is as if the life of the church here is a constant stream and for mere moments, truly only months at a time, does a Vicar get to dip his toes in the water and see all the wonderful work that God is doing here at Our Redeemer.

This year is no exception. As we have begun packing, Rachel and I have found ourselves discussing our year here and the ways our family has grown and through it all, it is abundantly clear, God has a plan. It wasn't until I looked at back of a drawing that Rachel gave me back in college that I saw I had jokingly written, "In the year of our lord 2016". It was an old way of marking time and I'm sure I thought it was hilarious when I wrote it. But it's true, it was the year of our Lord.

Even through a year of change with quarantines, zoom Bible studies, livestream services, or even the consistent moments like Pancake Day, Children's Christmas Service, Vicar's Installation, it was still the year of our Lord. Through the waters of Baptism, God continued to use Our Redeemer to make disciples for Jesus. The people of God were continually blessed to receive the Lord's Supper, even if for the first time in Our Redeemer history a service began with cars honking their horns to a pastor speaking to them over the radio. Over YouTube services and in-person worship, you and I have been blessed to hear the Word spoken to us. The Word which is as constant as ever. That Word which became flesh and dwelt among man.

Truly, this year is still the year of our Lord.

The life of the Church is a never-ending stream begun in the Garden of Eden, when God made His first promise of a savior in Genesis 3:15 and it continues flowing until it reaches the end. That final day when you and I will gather before our Lord surrounded by all of the children of God, praising the Lamb who is reigning on His throne. Rachel, Daisy, and I might be leaving you, and we may not see you again on this earth, but we have greatly enjoyed this year of our Lord with you.

We look forward to our reunion on the Day of our Lord.

God's Richest Blessings,
Vicar Gonzalez-Feliciano



OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

2301 East Court Street Iowa City, IA 52245

Phone: 319-338-5626

Email: redeemer@ourredeemer.org

www.ourredeemer.org

AUGUST ACTIVITIES

Schedule for the week of July 26—August 2

Sun 7/26	ZOOM-Sunday School 9:30am ZOOM-Adult Bible Class 9:30am YOUTUBE/Live Stream-Worship Service 10:30am VICAR'S BOX LUNCH TAILGATE 12:00pm
Vicar's Last Sunday	
Mon 7/27	ZOOM-Staff Meeting 1:00pm
Tues 7/28	No Events Planned
Wed 7/29	TOPS 8:00am Youth Event 6:00pm
Thurs 7/30	Comfort Tiers 9:00am
Fri 7/31	No Events Planned
Sat 8/1	YOUTUBE-Divine Worship Service 5:30pm
Sun 8/2	ZOOM-Sunday School 9:30am ZOOM-Adult Bible Class 9:30am YOUTUBE/Live Stream-Worship Service 10:30am

Dear Members & Friends of Our Redeemer,

At this unprecedented time it is still impossible to include a calendar for the month of August. Current Church Office hours are:

Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm

It has been a slow process but some things are part way, returning to normal.

Please check the online calendar to stay up to date. If you have any questions, please call the Church Office at 338-5626 or email me at:

redeemer@ourredeemer.org

May the Lord watch over everyone and keep us safe.

Yours in Christ,
Lorrie

Christ commands:

"Contribute to the needs of the saints.

Therefor we show hospitality."

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

****Watch your email for links****

**Saturday 5:30pm YOUTUBE
Sunday 10:30am YOUTUBE/LIVE STREAM
Sunday School 9:30am ZOOM
Adult Bible Study 9:30am ZOOM**

******Communion on August 2, 16 and 30, at
10:30am service******

Comfort-Tiers meet Thursdays at 9:00am

**Choir practice Wednesdays at 6:45pm
*Not meeting until further notice.***

**Praise Team Practice schedule varies—
Contact Myrl Holida myrl-holida@uiowa.edu or
Louise Klopp choirdirector@ourredeemer.org
*Praise Team not meeting until further notice.***

- Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
- Heavenly Father, we pray that the Lord may open our hearts to prayer and guide us in this holy conversation so that we may know those things for which we ought to pray and seek them according to His grace.
- Heavenly Father, we pray that the Church may prosper, the good news of Jesus Christ go forth unhindered, and the Spirit bring many into the fellowship of the redeemed.
- Heavenly Father, we pray that the Lord may grant to us good and faithful pastors to preach and teach the whole counsel of His Word, and that we may receive their words with joy and thanksgiving.
- Heavenly Father, we pray that we may remember our Baptism into Christ and live boldly in our vocation as His children no matter the difficulties of this fallen world, within our families, in our neighborhoods and throughout the world.
- Heavenly Father, we pray that the Lord may bless our nation and those who govern us, and that we may use the gift of freedom to live holy, upright and godly lives, to the praise of His glory.
- Heavenly Father, we pray that the Lord may bless all lawful occupations and professions, and that we may pursue honesty and virtue in all things.
- Heavenly Father, we pray that God's people may recognize the true treasure of the cross and rejoice in the resurrection, pursuing with all their hearts, minds, bodies and souls the things of His kingdom.
- Heavenly Father, we pray that the Lord may watch over our comings and goings and deliver us safely into the arms of His mercy, in the blessed rest of the faithful, to receive with all the dead in Christ the gift of life everlasting.
- Heavenly Father, you instituted marriage between one man and one woman, we give thanks especially for Rob and Diana Bowman who are celebrating their anniversary this week. Strengthen their marriage and the marriages of all husbands and wives.
- Heavenly Father, we pray that the sick may be healed, the troubled granted peace, the grieving comforted and the dying kept in peace, [*We especially pray for **Tom Barnes** (Melody Strom's stepfather), **Jeanette Cain** (Vaughn Davisson's cousin), **Charles Calef**, **Jody Cole** (Charles Calef's friend), **Emee Elkeurti**, **Ron Freeman** (Larry Freeman's nephew), **Danny Fuhrmeister**, **Aubrey Galindo** (friend of Schrader's), **Matthew Holida**, **Gabe Hundley** (grandson of Karen Abernathy), **David Jones** (Lonne Loney's uncle), **Ken and Donna Kober** (friends of the Thompson's), **Brad Koelper** (Donna Saehler's nephew), **Cathleen Loney**, **Shirley Losby**, **Creedon Miller** (son of Duane and Florence Miller), **Duane Miller**, **Tonda Moyer** (Lillian Moyer's daughter-in-law), **Barb Nace** (Doris Siemer's niece), **Ephraim Newland**, **Sharon Paulus** (Sandy Wagner's sister), **Joyce Pence** (Chad Pence's mother), **Sue Radke** (friend of the Lemke's), **Ron Rafferty**, **Steve Schultz**, **Nora Sellers** (Great Niece of Kevin & Laurel Sellers) **Ruth Thompson and Karen Warner**].*

[We pause for a moment of silent prayer.]

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.



Membership Changes and Official Acts

MISSION	JULY
Iowa District East	\$3,333.33
UIHC Chaplain Endowment Fund	\$333.33
TOTAL	\$3,666.66
Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca	\$500.00
Lutheran Family Services	\$500.00
Orphan Grain Train	\$250.00
St. Paul's Chapel	\$375.00
MONTH TOTAL	\$5,291.66
MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS	
CommUnity Crisis Center	**
Lutherans For Life	**
Concordia Seminary Food Bank	**
TOTAL	**

<u>Transfer In</u>	
Greg, Holly and Grant Wilson	6-18-2020
<u>Baptism</u>	
Elizabeth Jeannette Lothamer	6-28-2020

A Farewell and Godspeed for the Vicar



Join us for Vicar Gonzalez-Feliciano's last sermon on July 26th

Following late service we will have a noon meal. Bring your bag chairs for a socially distant tailgate style party in the church parking lot. A free will offering will be collected to help Vicar Gonzalez-Feliciano in his final year at the seminary.

Empowered by Jesus

Jesus said, *"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing"* (John 15:4-5). In Jesus' illustration, we are the branches, and He is the Vine. As branches on the Vine, we are totally dependent on Christ, the true Vine. We, as branches, are to bear fruit.

The Apostle Paul explained to the Galatians what that fruit is: *"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control"* (Galatians 5:22-23). Deeds done in faith are the fruit of faith resulting in good works. This fruit will be evident in the lives of Christians as a natural outcome of Christ living in us. We minister to the needs of others as Jesus, the Vine, did during His life on earth. We feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, entertain the stranger, clothe the naked, and visit the sick and the prisoner (Matthew 25:37-39) all in the name of Christ. In serving others, we bear much fruit and glorify God through our lives (John 15:8). We are not saved by the fruit we bear, but we have been created by God and empowered by Him to bear fruit.

May God help us all stay connected to Jesus, so that we may honor Him by serving others.



Christ commands: “Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality”. Romans 12:13

Upcoming Sunday School Lessons for Kids

Date	Lesson
7/26	Paul and Timothy Acts 15:1-16:5
8/2	TBD
8/9	TBD
8/16	Lydia Acts 16:11-15
8/23	A Soldier Believes-A Philippian Jailer
8/30	A Returning Truth-Christ Returns
9/6	No Class-Labor Day Weekend (“Spring” Confirmation Retreat)
9/13	TBD

Date	Lesson	Teacher
7/26	Watching and Communicating Angels	Pastor or Vicar
8/2	Angels and Jesus	Pastor
8/9	TBS	****
8/16	Evil Angels Today	Pastor
8/23	Angels and Believers Today	Pastor
8/30	On Judgement Day and Forever	Vicar
9/6	No Class Labor Day Weekend (“Spring” Confirmation Retreat)	****
9/13	TBD	****

Adult Bible Class

Birthdays

Sun. 7/26	Jackson Nemitz, Faith Pederson, Mark Schweer, Emerson Sexton
Mon. 7/27	Daniel Juhl
Tues. 7/28	Dillon Bruckman, Cade Obermueller
Wed. 7/29	Amy Frantz, Kelsey Johnston, Olga Will
Thurs. 7/30	Andrew Bell, Kelly Carlson, Kristene Lake, Lonnie Loney, Alexander Rasmussen, Amanda Saterfield, Cade Sexton, Zoey Sexton
Fri. 7/31	Charles Kleinmeyer, Claire Siems, Ardith Stoner
Sat. 8/1	Cody Kreutz

Stewardship July 18/19, 2020

ATTENDANCE		TREASURES	
Equipping Disciples Video 7/14	107	Sunday School/Adult Bible Class	19+67=86
Sat. 7/18 YOUTUBE WORSHIP	129	Contributions	\$7,684.00
Sun. 7/19 In person/LIVE STREAM	90	A Little Farther	\$1,100.00
TOTAL WEEKEND WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	219	Monthly needs for budget	\$64,902.00

Board Reports

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Current financial status-\$1192 in the red for the current month (last year-\$2582), this doesn't include the SBA loan of \$56,100. YTD Accumulative deficit is \$3294.

ELDER'S REPORT

- Discussed process for reopening for live worship.
- Vicar evaluation is complete, his last service is July 26, followed by a reception.

AT-LARGE REPORTS

- Outreach—Faith Fest has been cancelled for this Year, due to Covid-19.
- Other committees are on hiatus for now.

CHURCH PROPERTIES

- Work continues on integrating the internet/ phone systems from the Parsonage and Vicarage to run through the Church's system.
- Eagle Scout project may be to address problems with the wall behind the vicarage.
- The Preschool equipment will be power washed.
- Four window air conditioners for the Vicarage were installed by Dave Yansky, until a permanent decision is made.
- Some trees need to be removed at an estimated cost of \$5000.

STAFF REPORTS

Pastor Hartwig-

- Pastor will be attending an Ordination in early July. After that, he and his family will be on vacation through July 26.
- Live worship is going well. The next drive through communion is tentatively set for June 27 or 28.
- Vicar Don Stein will arrive August 3.

Vicar Gonzalez-Feliciano-

- Continues with covid-19 services and classes.
- Last service on July 26.

Youth Ministry-Kara Hartwig-

- Due to late spring frost in Colorado, there are no peaches this year. All other options were considered, but none were satisfactory, so this fund raiser is cancelled for this year.
- Summer Sunday school is underway.

- Covid-19 policies/procedures are being deployed.

Small Group-Denise Holida-

- Beth Moore classes have started.

Kaja Mueller-

- Preschool is full for next year.
- The basket fund raising auction is now online.

Marnie Schrader-

- It is expected that VBS will be held on live, but may convert to virtual if necessary.



KUDOS



Our Redeemer's

Board of Directors recognizes:

LINDA DIGGELMANN

For her dedication in keeping our church property beautiful. She spends countless hours planting, trimming, weeding and pruning of flowers, plants, shrubs and trees. Her efforts have elicited many compliments from the public and are deeply appreciated.

Thank you!



Submitted by Marcia Hulse

Stephen Ministry

We care, Christ cures.

Bear One Another's Burdens

Stephen Ministers provide ongoing Christian care to people experiencing a wide range of life needs or crises, including: the hospitalized, the terminally ill, those bereaved, the divorced or separated, the elderly, the disabled or handicapped, those in a job crisis, the lonely and discouraged, first-time parents, empty nesters, new members of our congregation or community, and those in spiritual crisis. These are obvious needs, the kind you can see listed in our Stephen Ministry brochures. But there are also less obvious needs for which a person could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister.

The quiet sufferer, the unnoticed one. This may be someone who encounters a series of smaller losses, stresses, or problems—any one of which he or she could normally take in stride—but when added together pose a bigger challenge. It could also be someone affected by their “new normal”, and that can be really hard. The loss itself may not normally have been significant, but when taken in the context of the person’s life situation at that point in time, it may be much more difficult to handle. In most instances, quiet sufferers may very well be able to work things through alone. However, they probably could work through the issue much better, faster, or with less stress with the help and the support of a Stephen Minister.

Another need that often goes unnoticed is that of a family member of a person in crisis. This could be, for example, a spouse, sibling, child, or parent of someone who has been unexpectedly incapacitated by surgery, illness or some other significant happening. It is easy to recognize how the victim’s life has been changed suddenly and drastically – but so has the spouse’s; he or she has been pushed (perhaps reluctantly) into the role of a caregiver. Immediate care may focus on the incapacitated person, while the spouse’s needs are forgotten or neglected. These are situations where a Stephen Minister could provide care to someone in a crucial, but often forgotten, role.

Thinking Stephen Ministry means looking beyond the obvious needs for care and remembering that there are many people needs have been overlooked or are not obvious. Identifying people with those needs, caring for them as appropriate, and helping them find the level of care they need are all important parts of thinking Stephen Ministry.

Dear God, please help us to remember that everyone is struggling in some way, even if we don’t know the way. May we show each of them love, patience, and compassion. Amen

STEPHEN LEADERS

Pastor Hartwig	338-5626
Bill Benson	517-881-9848
Marcia Hulse	351-7059
Kathy Schweer	466-3084

***God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.
(Psalm 46:1)***

Preschool Newsletter



Director/Teacher, Kaja Mueller Assistants, Sheena White M/W/F, Sara Cross T/TH
Preschool Phone: 319-338-3949 www.ourredeemerpreschoolic.org preschool@ourredeemer.org



PLAYGROUND

Our Redeemer Preschool where children play, learn, and grow in Jesus!

Preschool Fun & Learning



PAINTING EASEL

Our Redeemer Preschool where children play, learn, and grow in Jesus!





Children's Ministry

Birth—5th Grade

Children's Coordinator Marnie Schrader mvschrader@icloud.com (319) 530-1563



Summer Sunday School is Happening!

Please join me for Sunday School in one of two ways! I will be holding in-person Sunday School in the **Toddlin' Room** or your children can continue to join me on Zoom! I **can't wait to see you all either way!**

July 19—Paul & Barnabas

July 25—Paul & Timothy

August 2—VBS Kickoff Lesson

August 16—Lydia

August 23—A Soldier Believes

August 30—A Returning Truth



We are disappointed and saddened to announce that we have decided with much discernment and consideration to cancel our VBS for this year.

Due to Covid-19, we believe this is the best decision for all children and volunteers.

We look forward to next year when we will be able to gather again to teach and celebrate with our children the story of Jesus!



6th - 12th Graders

Summer Sunday School Schedule

THEME: The Church Inflates—*Early Christian Church*

Date	Scripture	Bible Lesson
July 25	Acts 15:1 – 16:5	Paul and Timothy
August 2	To be announced	
August 9	To be announced	
August 16	Acts 16:11-15	Lydia
August 23	Acts 16:16–40	A Soldier Believes – A Philippian Jailer
August 30	Revelation 21:1–22:5	A Returning Truth – Christ Returns
September 6	No Class	Labor Day Weekend (“Spring” Confirmation Retreat)
September 13	To be announced	

OUR REDEEMER OFFICE DIRECTORY

Office: 338-5626 Fax: 338-9171 Website: <http://www.ourredeemer.org> Preschool: 338-3949
 Prayer Chain: 351-5297 or prayerchain@ourredeemer.org Special Announcements Line: 338-3505

<u>STAFF & EMAIL</u>	<u>PHONE NO.</u>	<u>STAFF & EMAIL</u>	<u>PHONE NO.</u>
Brent Hartwig, Senior Pastor bhartwig@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church) 337-2403 (home)	Kaja Mueller, Preschool Director preschool@ourredeemer.org	338-3949 (preschool) 338-5626 (church)
Miguel Gonzalez-Feliciano, Vicar vicar@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)	Lorrie Bailey, Office Coordinator redemer@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)
Sara Cross, Preschool Assistant preschoolassistant@ourredeemer.org	338-3949 (preschool)	Sarah Gabel, Bookkeeper bookkeeper@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)
Kara Hartwig, Youth Coordinator youthcoordinator@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)	Denise Holida, Adult Coordinator smallgroups@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church) 930-0165 (cell)
Louise Klopp, Director Choirs/Properties choirdirector@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)	Marilyn Paetz, Organist organist@ourredeemer.org	351-4262 (home)
Marnie Schrader, Children's Coordinator childrensministry@ourredeemer.org	319-530-1563 (cell)	Kevin Sellers Director of Technology technology@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church) 631-8924 (cell)
Laurel Sellers, Consultant consultant@ourredeemer.org	319-331-3242 (cell)	Sheena White, Preschool Assistant preschoolassistant@ourredeemer.org	338-3949 (preschool)

2020 Board of Elders

Bill Benson	517-881-9848
Dave Bohnsack	319-430-2054
Vaughn Davisson (Chair)	319-648-4660
Jim Eick	319-430-5603
Ryan Haack	319-325-7915
Eric Kooker	319-339-0175
Chad Pence	319-321-5686
Art Schwarting	319-325-6152
Arlan Thompson	319-338-2938

2020 Board of Directors

President	Myrl Holida	319-351-4301
Vice President	Denny Schrader	319-461-7318
Secretary	Barb Schanbacher	319-351-3998
Treasurer	Larry Freeman	319-400-8356
Board of Elders	Vaughn Davisson	319-648-4660
Properties	Dave Yansky	319-621-7694
At Large	Jeff Kucera	563-316-1088
	Marilyn Albright	319-430-8129
	Kevin Roiseland	319-230-5247

DEADLINES

Reflections (printed weekly): Information must be submitted (written, typed, emailed or faxed) each Wednesday by 5:00 pm

Beacon Newsletter & Church Activities Calendar (printed monthly): Information must be submitted (written, typed, emailed or faxed) by noon on the 20th of each month.

RADIO

Lutheran Hour Ministries on Radio—WMT 600 AM Radio on Sunday mornings at 6:30 am, and KXEL 1540 AM Radio on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. For more information on Lutheran Hour Ministries go to www.LHM.org.

VOLUNTEER BACKGROUND SCREENING

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church has a strong, caring ministry with children and youth. To promote the safest and most secure environment possible all employees and volunteers, both new and existing, undergo a background screening before working with younger members. Performing background checks provides safeguards and peace of mind to our staff, volunteers, parents, youth, and children.

Fetching Summer Home

Proverbs 10:5a

Tomatoes are ripe, as are the peppers,
And carrots are ready to pull.

The green beans are full-bodied on their vines—
Jars are waiting to become full.

I pick my garden, harvesting God's gifts, and
Can or freeze to eat in winter.

I am fetching summer home.

Fruit needs picking: raspberries, gooseberries,
There are currants, grapes and some pears.
Bowls are filled and piled high, taken in
To the house and on up the stairs.

I am fetching summer home.

Washed, stemmed, mashed, cut, ingredients added.
Cooked until thick, poured and then sealed.
Opened in winter with bread and butter--
Jams or jellies are then revealed!

I have fetched summer home.

Carol Schuldt