Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Peace of the Lord be with you! Yes, Peace. Even in this strange, anxious, anything-but-ordinary time: Peace.

In an *ordinary* calendar year, students would be settling into their peaceful routines. In an *ordinary* calendar year, parents might enjoy a slightly quieter house. In an *ordinary* calendar year, the leaves would be beginning to change.

Well, we all know 2020 has been anything but *ordinary*. Even the *ordinary* things don't seem *ordinary*! The Church is currently in the Season of 'Ordinary Time.' But it does not feel like an *ordinary* Ordinary Time time. (Yes, that sentence was grammatically correct!) Our worship services and activities have been modified. Some, regrettably, put on indefinite hold or even cancelled.

Yet nothing in the world can disrupt the *extra-ordinary* work of the Church. God's Word is still preached here! The Sacraments are still offered here! God's promises of forgiveness, new life and salvation are still proclaimed for you here!

The readings in Ordinary Time lead up to Christ's Second Coming, when He will come again to judge the living and the dead, and bring His eternal, peaceful Kingdom to earth in its fullness. Everything leads up to that wonderful moment, when this strange, anxious, anything-but-ordinary world passes away and the extra-ordinary Peace of the Lord reigns forever. That's what we Christians should bear in mind: Christ's victory is assured. Peace is already won!

We get a foretaste of that peace in the Church—not only in worship, but also in fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ! For your own spiritual benefit, I encourage you to participate as much as you can in the months ahead. Worship in person, if possible. Certainly online, if not. Come to as many events outside of worship as you can.

The staff at Our Redeemer have been working hard to develop next year's Equipping Disciples plan. I know you will be enriched by it! Invite others to take part too! In this way, we can shine as an example for others—a *Beacon*, if you will—of God's peace in the world.

It may not be an *ordinary* time. You will certainly face anything-but-*ordinary* struggles. (I know I won't have an *ordinary* vicarage!) But Christ remains the same yesterday, today, and forever. He grants us His Peace—a peace that sends us forth into the world, bringing peace and joy and love to the earth!

1 Forth in the peace of Christ we go; Christ to the world with joy we bring; Christ in our minds, Christ on our lips, Christ in our hearts, the world's true king. 5 We are the Church; Christ bids us show That in His Church all nations find Their hearth and home where Christ restores True peace, true love to all mankind.

LSB 920 "Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go"

In Christ, Vicar Stein



OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

2301 East Court Street Iowa City, IA 52245 Phone: 319-338-5626

Email: <u>redeemer@ourredeemer.org</u> www.ourredeemer.org

SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

Schedule for the week of Aug. 30-Sept. 6

Sun 8/30 ZOOM-Sunday School 9:30am

ZOOM-Adult Bible Class 9:30am

In Person/Live Stream-Worship Service 10:30am

Mon 8/31 No Events Planned

Tues 9/1 Human Care Committee 6:30pm

Wed 9/2 TOPS 8:00am

Bible Study 11:00am

Lunch Bunch 12:00pm

Preschool Orientation 6:30pm

Thurs 9/3 Comfort Tiers 9:00am

Visitation 11:00am

Board of Elders 7:00pm

Fri 9/4 No Events Planned

Sat 9/5 YOUTUBE-Divine Worship Service 5:30pm

Sun 9/6 In Person-Sunday School 9:30am (No zoom)

In Person/ZOOM-Adult Bible Class 9:30am

In Person/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 8:30am-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.

Therefore we show hospitality."

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Watch your email for links
Saturday 5:30pm YOUTUBE
Sunday 10:30am In Person/LIVE STREAM
Sunday School 9:30am—In Person
Adult Bible Study 9:30am-In Person/ZOOM

****Communion on August 30, September 6, 20 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER



Preschool Walk Through & Orientation September 1 4:30pm



September 2 1st & 3rd Wednesdays Of the month Bible Class 11:00am Lunch 12:00pm Fellowship Hall



"Spring Confirmation "Trip""
September 7
At Church
4:00pm



Labor Day September 7 Office Closed

Confirmation Orientation September 9 6:45pm



Preschool Begins September 8 & 9



LWML
District Convention
September 12





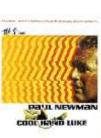
Confirmation Begins September 16 6:45pm



6th Grade Confirmation Retreat September 18-19



September 24 6:30pm Fellowship Hall



Rated PG



Basics of the Faith September 27, 1:00pm Fellowship Hall Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Our Redeemer, You have made us living and holy and well-pleasing sacrifices.

Knowing this reality, help us to

Let love be genuine.

Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

Live peacefully with all.

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

Rejoice in hope,

be patient in tribulation,

be constant in prayer, and...

Contribute to the need of the saints

and show hospitality!

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Our Redeemer, You have blessed us with many resources and we pray You to teach our hearts to know contentment and peace in all the blessings You have supplied. Make us generous, that what we have received we may share with those in need and give to Your Church as the tithes and offerings of a grateful heart and a confident faith.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Our Redeemer, until that day dawns and Christ, the Morning Star, arises with the light of the eternal day, keep us from being distracted by temptation or deceived by error. Guard the truth You have planted in our hearts, that when Christ comes in His glory, we may be found holy and blameless and enter into His presence with all the saints of old.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Our Redeemer, Your love is for all people. Guide and direct our nation as we seek to ensure justice and righteous to all – the poor, the needy, the marginalized, the downtrodden. Guide us to love mercy, do justice, and walk humbly with our God as Your Word tells us. Help us to be mindful of our neighbors needs and to be the voice for those who are voiceless. Help our leaders to create good and meaningful change for all, and help turn our eyes to Jesus and his love for all people.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Our Redeemer, we rejoice that You have written our names in the Lamb's Book of Life and given us the new birth of water and the Word. We are especially grateful for our baptism. Strengthen us and all baptized in the faith.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Mighty Lord, we pray for the families and friends of *Dorothy Furler* (Kathy Folkmann's mother) and *Richard Henningfield* as they mourn their deaths. Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and find comfort in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Our Redeemer, remember all who cry out to You in their time of need [We especially pray for Dorothy Blume (Carol Schuldt's sister), Jeanette Cain (Vaughn Davisson's cousin), Charles Calef, David Caplin (Lillian Moyer's son-in-law), Jody Cole (Charles Calef's friend), Emee Elkeurti, Ron Freeman (Larry Freeman's nephew), Aubrey Galindo (friend of Schrader's), Steve Gage (Marnie Schrader's uncle), Matthew Holida, Gabe Hundley (grandson of Karen Abernathy), Noah Johnson (Emily Stein's cousin), David Jones (Lonne Loney's uncle), Brad Koelper (Donna Saehler's nephew), Cathleen Loney, Duane Miller, 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, Zach Rasmann (Emily Stein's brother), Steve Schultz, Nora Sellers (Great niece of Kevin & Laurel Sellers), Carol Simpson (Kara Hartwig's mother), Ruth Thompson, Karen Warner, and Mark Wilson]. Grant each one Your peace, Your healing and Your comfort.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

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

<u>Death</u>	
Norma Irene Westphal	7-25-2020
Ezra Sheldon (Non-Member)	8-29-2020
Richard Wayne Henningfield	8-25-2020
<u>Baptisms</u>	
Macy Jean Pronk	8-22-2020
Tyler Jay Pronk	8-22-2020



MISSION	August
Iowa District East	\$3,333.33
UIHC Chaplain Endowment Fund	\$333.33
TOTAL	\$3,666.66
LCMS World Mission Iowa (Lutz)	\$500.00
Peace Office Ministry	\$250.00
Housing Fellowship	\$500.00
MONTH TOTAL	\$5,541.66
MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS	
CommUnity Crisis Center	***
Lutherans For Life	***
Concordia Seminary Food Bank	***
TOTAL	



Pledges received for the month of August	\$2,803.33
Total amount of pledges received	\$95,419.31
Total amount pledges promised	\$358,446.16

Thank you for your continued support.



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
8/30	A Returning Truth-Christ Returns
9/6	No Class-Labor Day Weekend ("Spring" Confirmation Retreat)
9/13	TBD

Date	Lesson	Teacher
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. 8/30	Loren Deetz, Beth Hargens, Anita Nicholson, Jack Thomas, Rodney Wittich III
Mon. 8/31	Steven Scott, Jacob Wahlert
Tues. 9/1	David Hintze
Wed. 9/2	Dawn Saterfield
Thurs. 9/3	Jeffrey Kleinmeyer, Nalia Naraine, Michael Schmidt
Fri. 9/4	Kean Mueller, Christopher Stoll, Ryan Stoll, Michael Trimpe, Joseph Van Zante
Sat. 9/5	Kale Clark, Sarah Ghabel, Helen Jahnke, Kari Kibby, Emily Lenhart

Stewardship August 22/23, 2020

ATTENDANCE		TREASURES	
Equipping Disciples Video 8/18	121	Sunday School/Adult Bible Class	17+72=89
Sat. 8/22 YOUTUBE WORSHIP	129	Contributions	\$2,766.80
Sun. 8/23 In person/LIVE STREAM	139	A Little Farther	\$325.00
TOTAL WEEKEND WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	268	Monthly needs for budget	\$64,902.00



DO YOU SEE IT?



These pictures were taken by Brenda Johnson of the roses in the little flower garden by the sign. Take note of the formation of the yellow roses. The right picture is a close up shot of the left picture.



Board Reports





The Board would like to take time to extend a special thank you to Louise Klopp for bringing in a chainsaw and doing a lot of emergency clean-up after the straight wind storm in August. The storm did a lot of tree damage. We also want to say thank you to others that have also assisted in the emergency clean up.

The Board of Directors was scheduled to meet Thursday, August 13, 2020. However, due to the storm related power outage at church, the meeting was cancelled. The Board of Directors will next meet on Thursday, September 10. In the meantime, questions or concerns can addressed to any member of the Board of Directors.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Over the last four years, I have repeated to myself the following refrain, "The church is the Lord's. He will indeed care for it." Through sad, frustrating and joyful moments, my prayer has been that I faithfully serve in our Lord's church as He sees fit. Recently, the Lord has decided that it is time for my service in His church to shift as I was called to and accepted a faculty position at Concordia University, Nebraska, Seward, Neb., to teach theology.

For the last three and a half years, Panama has been our home. We have made friends, developed habits and discovered our favorite places to ear or grab a coffee. We have been incorporated into a church family that loves us. U have baptized, preached and confirmed in those churches. In this beautiful country, we have lost two children to miscarriage, but the Lord has also given us a beautiful daughter, Aviva Eliana. As prepare to leave Panama, we do so with a mixture of great sadness and inexplicable joy. Ezra and Aviva know Panama as home more than anywhere else, but we know that the Lord will care for His church in Panama because "the church is the Lord's."

During our time with the LCMS Office of International Mission, your partnership in the Gospel has blessed Panama as well as many countries throughout Latin America, the Caribbean and South America. In addition to serving, in various capacities, four congregations and a church plant in Panama, I also served on the faculty of Concordia El Reformador Seminary in the Dominican Republic, teaching Old Testament exegesis. My work with the seminary also brought me to Mexico City and Zacapa, Guatemala, to provide continuing theological education for pastors. Your partnership has supported the pastoral formation of men from 10 different countries as well as the formation of deaconesses in Panama, Mexico, Guatemala, Venezuela and the Dominican Republic. God willing, 135 deaconesses will be consecrated in the next two years and 50 men (a 20% increase!) will be ordained to serve our Lord's church as pastors.

While leaving Panama is certainly not easy for us, we take joy in knowing that our Lord Jesus is Lord of His church. Panama has long had a missionary presence. We were not the first missionary family to serve here, nor will we be the last. The Lord's work will continue in the hands of the Panamanian Lutheran Church, which is in a good place to continue faithfully serving and proclaiming the Good News of Jesus.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing support of our Lord's work through our missionary service. Amanda and I marvel at how many individuals and congregations, without having ever met us, have willingly given of their financial resources to support the work of the Gospel in Panama. If you have been supporting us as your missionaries and would like to continue supporting the spread of the Gospel around the world, please contact Julie Loehring, Together in Mission (TIM) coordinator, or Michelle Beckmann, Mission Senders coordinator, at 888-930-4438 to discuss options for transferring your support. The Rev. Dr. Brent Smith or Gary Thies at Mission Central can be reached at 712-882-1029.

Transitioning from one country to another is difficult enough as it is, let alone trying to do it during a pandemic. In the midst of quarantines, curfews and travel restrictions, we are making our plans to return to the United States as well as provide pastoral care to El Redentor Lutheran Church in Balboa, Panama. We continue to ask for your prayers as we prepare to depart Panama and transition to Nebraska and into the Concordia University family. Thank you being a part of our lives and for supporting our work of proclaiming the Gospel in Panama and throughout Latin America.

The church is the Lord's, and He will indeed care for it and see to it that its mission of preaching Jesus crucified and resurrected for the forgiveness of sins continues.

In Christ,
Pastor Brian, Amanda, Ezra and Aviva Gauthier
LCMS Missionaries to Panama



Stephen Ministry

We care, Christ cures.

Hope-Full Caregiving

One of the most distinctively Christian resources to be considered is hope. As a distinctively Christian caregiver, Stephen Ministers become a facilitator of God's hope. There are several practical ways Stephen Ministers can become an instrument through which distinctively Christian hope can flow into others.

Sticking with Them – A potent way in which hope manifests itself is when a caregiver lets people know by their words and actions that they are willing to help them struggle through their problems. Their consistent, caring presence with them through thick and thin installs hope. The knowledge and expectation that another person will be with them during difficult times provides people with a feeling of security.

Reducing Anxiety – Often those for whom a Stephen Ministers care will have a great deal of anxiety. The very act of meeting a time or two can serve to reduce the anxiety of the care receiver. A problem shared is a problem halved. Anxiety reduction can be very hope-producing itself.

Accepting the Other – By communicating through words and actions can display acceptance of people despite their problems and faults, can also instill hope. Unconditional acceptance leads to trust, and trust is closely followed by hope. By communicating acceptance to others despite their problems and their sins—just as Jesus does—a Stephen Minister can produce great hope in others.

Emphasizing the Positive—Sometimes individuals feel so broken that they can no longer discover any good in themselves. Natural talents and skills are all but obscured by an exaggerated sense of their problems and negative feelings about themselves. A Stephen Minister can install hope in the person for whom they are caring by emphasizing those positive characteristics. This is precisely what Jesus did when Nathaniel was brought to him. He said, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" (John 1:47). Jesus could have said, "Behold a sinner who needs repentance!" Rather, in this instance he chose to accentuate the positive.

Realizing Failures and Limitations—Discovering the positive includes, by implication, the realization that no one is all positive, that everyone has failures and limitations. Jesus often praised Peter, but did not hesitate to rebuke him publicly when necessary. Knowing who Peter was to become, Jesus spoke the truth in love to him about his forthcoming denial on the eve of the crucifixion. Like bad-tasting medicine, confronting in love the faults and limitations of another can engender hope. The faults and limitations of a care receiver are actually promises that Jesus still has healing to perform. A Stephen Minister can take heart that their own weaknesses and failures are opportunities for God's strength to show itself, and therefore can lovingly communicate the same vision to another.

Jesus is with Us—What a comfort to know that Jesus is with both the Stephen Minister and the care receiver. The Christian condition is not just Jesus inside us, it's the joy of realizing that Jesus is the objective as well as the supportive presence. All this hope-producing power is because Jesus Christ is in us, with us, above us, beside us, behind us and for us.

Being Distinctively Christian—Hope can be installed by simply being distinctively Christian. By speaking in distinctively Christian terms and relating to others in a distinctively Christian manner, convey your competence as a Christian caregiver, thereby installing hope. The language of hope is one aspect of Christian caregiving. The fact of hope is what Christian care aims for.

Dear God, there is work to do. Please help guide us towards the work that you want us to do. Guide us in thought, words, and deeds. And when we are tired, please lift us up. Help us to lead with love, empathy, and compassion. Amen God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

(Psalm 46:1)

 Pastor Hartwig
 338-5626

 Bill Benson
 517-881-9848

 Marcia Hulse
 351-7059

 Kathy Schweer
 466-3084

 Kevin Sellers
 631-8924

SUMMER YOUTH EVENTS

2020

Baseball Bible Trivia



Hickory Hill Park Hike





UKANDU Facebook Live Event



Backyard Fun at Bohnsacks



Giant Foosball



Movie Night



Codenames





"Around the World"

S'mores & More at Bohnsacks





Preschool Newsletter

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

Preschool Fun & Learning













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



IT'S EMBY TO TALK WITH GOD!



Registration!

Sunday School & Kids Club Check your email and fill out the Google form to register your child/ren for Fall Sunday School and Midweek!





6th - 12th Graders

September

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

DATE	EVENT	TIME					
9	Confirmation Orientation Parents & Students	6:45 pm					
13	Rally Day Fall Sunday School class starts Milestone gifts presented during Sunday services	9:30 am 8:00 am & 10:30 am					
16	Midweek Meal High School helps with meal Confirmation Classes & High School Midweek begin	6 pm 6:45 pm					
18	6th Grade Confirmation Fall Retreat						

Rally Day kicks off Fall Sunday School

Our Redeemer kicks off the new school year with **Rally Day** to start fall Sunday School.

Milestone Gifts will be presented to our incoming 6th Grade Confirmation students and High School Juniors during the 8:00 am and 10:30 am Worship Services on Rally Day.

Pastor will lead **Confirmation Orientation** for the parents and Confirmation students.

Midweek begins with a Midweek Meal. We're thankful for Becky West who will be preparing the food for the Midweek Meals this year!

The **6**th **Grade Confirmation students** will get to experience Creation Pizza with Pastor during their **Fall Retreat** later in the month.



MIDWEEK BEGINS

Wednesday, September **16**th

Midweek Meal @ 6pm

Confirmation & Midweek Classes @ 6:45pm

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

STAFF & EMAIL	PHONE NO.	STAFF & EMAIL	PHONE NO.
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)
Donal Stein, Vicar vicar@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)	Lorrie Bailey, Office Coordinator redeemer@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)
Sara Cross, Preschool Assistant preschoolassistant@ourredeemer.org	338-3949 (preschool)	Sarah Ghabel, 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)

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.

