

The Parish Beacon

Volume 42– No. 2

February 2021

Dear brothers and sister in Christ –

Tonight, I sit in the state of Florida. Earlier this week, the temperatures were in the 80s, and the sun was shining brightly. Back home, you were getting eight inches of snow. At almost the same time, my brother in Reno, Nevada, received seventeen inches of snow and was expecting another foot before the end of the day.

As I pondered this, I had an epiphany. It became abundantly clear that our surroundings have a significant impact upon us. This revelation is not startling. We all know it, yet it struck me how easily and how quickly our environment changes us.

Out-of-sight and out-of-mind. It is easy to forget how cold it was at home. Out-of-sight and out-of-mind. It is easy to feel like the Florida winters are cold and uncomfortable when it reaches the lows of 40s and highs of 60s. Out-of-sight and out of mind. It is easy to focus on *OUR* reality and forget *THE* reality.

This is the reason why the Bible tells us to “fix our eyes on Jesus.” (Hebrews 12:2). Because there are so many other things upon which we can fix our eyes, the Bible calls us to fix our eyes on Jesus. If we do not fix on eyes upon Him, we will fix them upon something.

So how do we fix our eyes upon Jesus?

- We attend church (online or in-person).
- We attend Bible studies.
- We faithfully pray to God (when we wake up, before meals, and go to bed)
- We meditate upon His Word, day and night.
- We participate in the life of the church by giving some of our life to the church.

As we focus on going to all the world to preach the Gospel, I pray that you keep your eyes focused on Jesus. As you respond, “Here I am,” I pray that you will be looking at Jesus. For when we take our eyes off of Jesus, we will be influenced to believe something else. It is too easy in our lives of business to have Jesus be out-of-sight and out-of-mind.

Blessings,
Pastor Hartwig



OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

2301 East Court Street Iowa City, IA 52245

Phone: 319-338-5626

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Sat 1/30	Basics of the Faith 12:30pm Worship Service-In Person/Live Stream 5:30pm
Sun 1/31	Worship Service-In Person/Live Stream 8:00am Sunday School 9:20am Adult Bible Class-In Person/ZOOM 9:20am Worship Service-In Person/Live Stream 10:30am Basics of the Faith 12:30pm
Mon 2/1	Staff Meeting 1:00pm Sunlight AA Group 6:00pm Youth Committee Meeting 6:00pm Mission Committee Meeting 7:00pm
Tues 2/2	Human Care Committee 6:30pm
Wed 2/3	TOPS 8:00am Bible Study 11:00am Lunch Bunch 12:00pm Midweek 6:45pm Adult Midweek 7:00pm
Thurs 2/4	Comfort Tiers 9:00am Visitation Meeting 11:00am Board of Elders 6:30 Women's Bible Study 7:00pm
Fri 2/5	Winter Retreat 6:00pm
Sat 2/6	Worship Service-In Person/Live Stream 5:30pm
Sun 2/7	Worship In Person/Live Stream 8:00am Sunday School 9:20am Adult Bible Class-In Person/ZOOM 9:20am Worship Service-In Person/Live Stream 10:30am Children's Ministry Committee 7:00pm

Dear Members & Friends of Our Redeemer,

Office hours here at church are:

Monday-Friday 8:30am-5:00pm

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

Yours in Christ,

Lorrie

"Here I am."

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

****WATCH YOUR MONDAY EMAIL FOR SIGN-UP LINKS FOR WORSHIP****

**Saturday 5:30pm In Person/LIVE STREAM
Sunday 8:00am & 10:30am In Person/LIVE STREAM
Sunday School 9:20am—In Person
Adult Bible Study 9:20am—Fellowship Hall/ZOOM**

******Communion on February 6, 7, 20, 21 ******

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 Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Almighty God, You are God of gods and Lord of lords. Truly, there is no God but You alone. From You and from Your Son, Jesus Christ, are all things. Reveal the saving knowledge of Christ's truth to us and all the world, that loving You and one another, together we may be known by God.

The Lord answers, calls to us, and we respond:

Here I am

Almighty God, whose voice was heard at Sinai and whose authority was made manifest in Christ, the Prophet greater than Moses. Send faithful preachers into Your harvest who will be diligent to listen to Your Word and speak it faithfully in Your name. Preserve us from false prophets who would lead us away from Your truth, and give us ears to hear gladly the saving words of Christ.

The Lord answers, calls to us, and we respond:

Here I am

Almighty God, guard our families and homes, and build them up in love. Support parents in their task of instructing their children, strengthen those whose faith is weak, and make us bold to forego convenience and security to attest the truths of our most holy faith with heart and action.

The Lord answers, calls to us, and we respond:

Here I am

Almighty God, give health and success to our president and governor, our legislators and judges, and all who serve for our governance and protection. Make them high in purpose, wise in counsel and unwavering in duty.

The Lord answers, calls to us, and we respond:

Here I am

Almighty God, Your Son cast out unclean spirits and taught with authority. He is the Great Physician of body and soul. Have mercy on those who are sick, distressed, in danger or facing any need [We especially pray for **Dorothy Blume** (*Carol Schuldt's sister*), **Charles Calef**, **David Caplin** (*Lillian Moyer's son-in-law*), **Gordon Carlson** (*Susan Carlson's father*), **Jody Cole** (*Charles Calef's friend*), **Emee Elkeurti**, **Aubrey Galindo** (*friend of Schrader's*), **Gabe Hundley** (*grandson of Karen Abernathy*), **Dora Jacobson** (*granddaughter of George and Carol Schuldt*), **David Jones** (*Lonne Loney's uncle*), **Creedon Miller** (*Duane and Flo Miller's son*), **Barb Nace** (*Doris Siemer's niece*), **Artis Ogilvie** (*Tom Ogilvie's mother*), **Ron Rafferty**, **Nora Sellers** (*Great niece of Kevin & Laurel Sellers*), **Kathy Siems**, **Rozie Siems** (*Daughter of Mary Siems*), **Karen Warner**, **Rhonda Waters**, **Mark Wilson**, and **Pastor Zimmermann**]. Sustain them with patience, trusting in Your merciful care, and graciously relieve them.

The Lord answers, calls to us, and we respond:

Here I am

Almighty God, You instituted marriage between one man and one woman. We thank you for the 55 years of marriage for **Dave and Sharon Hintze**. Continue to strengthen them and all couples in their love for each other and their love for you.

The Lord answers, calls to us, and we respond:

Here I am

Almighty God, You protect us through the men and women who serve in the military. Bless each branch of the military. Protect those who serve and give them the strength to fulfill their duties. We especially as that you guard and protect **Jacob Sexton** as he begins a year of service overseas and be with his family while he is gone.

The Lord answers, calls to us, and we respond:

Here I am

Almighty God, look with favor on all who partake this day of Christ's holy body and blood, that in their eating and drinking they may receive the benefits of forgiveness of sins and renewal of life, and so receive a foretaste of the feast to come.

The Lord answers, calls to us, and we respond:

Here I am

Lord God, heavenly Father, we silently bring before you our prayers:

[*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.**

Upcoming Sunday School Lessons for Kids

THEME: "God Leads His Nation"

Date	Scripture	Bible Lesson
February 7	Joshua 5:13-6:27	The Downfall Wall—The Fall of Jericho
February 14	Judges 4	The Palm-The Tree Judge—Deborah
February 21	Judges 16:4-31	The Weakened Judge—Samson
February 28	Ruth 1:1-2:13; 4:13-17	The Faith-Full Family—Ruth

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS



HERE I AM! PROPHETS

Date	Prophet	Area(s) of the Bible
January 31	Hosea: <i>Even When it's Tough</i>	Hosea 1, 3, 14
February 7	Amos: <i>Prophet for Everyman</i>	Amos 1
February 14	Micah: <i>Sweet Results</i>	Micah 1, 5, 7

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS THE NEXT UNITS COMING UP



HERE I AM! DISCIPLES

Date	Event	Area(s) of the Bible
February 21	Chosen	Matthew 4:18-22, Mark 1:16-20 Luke 5:1-11, John 1:35-51
February 28	Taught	Matthew 13, Luke 9:46-50
March 7	Sent	Luke 9:1-6, 23-27
March 14	Transfigured	Matthew 17
March 21	Served	John 17

Birthdays

Sun. 1/31	Cade Dyson, Susan Scott, Jeff Segar, Logan Stuart
Mon. 2/1	****
Tues. 2/2	Carrie Barnes, Steve Rudin, Kayla Sanders
Wed. 2/3	Robert Haima, Elizabeth Lothamer, Ashley Philippi, Sophie Price, Paul Vollmers
Thurs. 2/4	Tyler Bell, Eva Bolton, Jayse Morrison, Matthew Stoner, Marlene Thompson
Fri. 2/5	Christopoher Davis, John Nelson
Sat. 2/6	****

Stewardship January 23/24

ATTENDANCE		TREASURES	
Equipping Disciples Video 1/18	95	Sunday School/Adult Bible Class	36/61
Sat. 1/23 In Person/LIVE STREAM 5:30pm	29	Contributions	\$6,034.00
Sun. 1/24 In person/LIVE STREAM 8:00am	49	A Little Farther	\$775.00
Sun. 1/24 In Person/LIVE STREAM 10:30am	58	Monthly needs for budget	\$64,902.00
TOTAL WEEKEND WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	157	Prerecord (YOUTUBE)	21

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY



Basics of the Faith
January 29/30



February 3
Bible Class 11:00am
Lunch 12:00pm
Fellowship Hall



Confirmation Winter Retreat
February 5 @ 6:00pm



Sunday, February 14



LWML BINGO
February 15
7:00pm
Fellowship Hall



February 17
Bible Class 11:00am
Lunch 12:00pm
Fellowship Hall



February 25/6:00pm
Fellowship Hall
Rated R



Noisy Offering
February 27/28
All Services



Kid's Club Sunday
February 28

Membership Changes and Official Acts

MISSION	January
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	\$25.00
Lutherans For Life	**
Concordia Seminary Food Bank	**
TOTAL	\$25.00

<u>Baptism</u>	
<u>Removed</u>	



Thank you for your continued support.



Pledges received for the month of January	\$15,402.33
Total amount of pledges received	\$174,788.18
Total amount pledges promised	\$358,446.16

BACK UP AND IN A NEW SPOT!

Building Healthy Families:



God allows many opportunities for us to meet people who don't yet know Him. At work, in recreation, at community events, in friendships and at family gatherings, they are there if we take the time to notice them. Who will come across your path this week who needs a word of hope, an act of kindness or an expression of love motivated by God's love for you? Keep an eye out for ways to live out 1 John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us!

Lutheran Family Service -
www.LutheranFamilyService.org

The block art piece titled "Seed of the Word" is now back up in the narthex by the Welcome Counter. The piece was created by Dr. Leonard Schoepp in 1970 in honor of the confirmation class, here at Our Redeemer of which his daughter Deborah was a member of as a part of the Ph.D. thesis at the University of Iowa. This art piece cannot be duplicated because the molds were destroyed as soon as the piece was completed.

The blocks had been in storage awaiting for a new wooden station for them to be mounted in and Linda Diggelmann decided to take up the task of obtaining the services of a craftsman.

The open display shelf for the sculpture was built by John Martinek, a skilled cabinet maker, who is also an Iowa City based artist with pieces including watercolor, acrylic, and ink on clay board.



Board Reports

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Total income in 2020 was \$714K with total expenses of \$735K (for a deficit of \$20K.)
- Reminder: the SBA loan is still in reserve.

ELDER'S REPORT

- It was decided to refrain from printed bulletins for the time being.
- Question arose of when acolytes will be returned to service.

AT-LARGE REPORTS

- **Missions:** After much discussion with Community, Pancake Day will be virtual this year. As an example, the Mission Guild's campaign to replace their annual Cookie Walk with virtual giving resulted in an equal amount being raised in this manner.
- **Assimilation:** Requests members submit updated photos for the Membership Directory.
- **Technology:** Completing the work to integrate the Internet/phone systems from the Parsonage and Vicarage to run through the church's system.

CHURCH PROPERTIES

- Committee setting priorities for 2021.
- Discussion of the needed repairs to the cross in front of church. The BOD will appoint an ad-hoc committee to explore all options.

STAFF REPORTS

Pastor Hartwig-

- Pastor requests prayers for all members who are ill and/or recovering from illnesses.
- Lent begins in February.
- Next Trivia Challenge will be in March.

Vicar Stein-No Report

Youth Ministry-Kara Hartwig-

- Live Nativity went well. Upcoming activities for youth include family ski trip.
- Assembling Care Packages for college students.
- Classes continue in zoom/room.

Small Group-Denise Holid-

- A new mid-week Bible study has begun.

Kaja Mueller-

- Pre-school continues to meet in person every day. M-W-F, 12 students, T-Th. 10 students.

Marnie Schrader –

- Children's Christmas program went well.
- In person gatherings continue to do well.

Other–

- Praise Team has resumed playing weekly.
- Bells will be playing monthly.
- The city needs to do sewer repair on our 511 Melrose property and needs to have access to the property. The BOD approved accepting compensation for the easement to complete this work, without any use of the parking lot.
- Because of the pandemic, LCMS has moved their national meeting (scheduled for 2022) to 2023. Therefore, the IDE meeting which always meets the year before the national meeting will need to move to 2022. Each congregation needs to approve this move. The BOD approved.



KUDOS



Our Redeemer's

Board of Directors recognizes:

THE USHERS & DONNA SAEHLER

(AKA "GERM BUSTERS")

For their attention to sanitizing the sanctuary and other areas of the church during the pandemic.

The Board also thanks

Will & Kate Lothamer & family

&

Sam & Brent Nelson & family

for use of their animals for the Live Nativity.

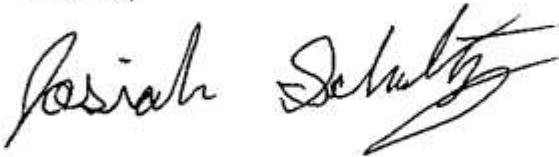
Thank you!

Dear Our Redeemer Lutheran Church,

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all of you! Thank you so much for your support and prayers as I begin my theological formation. It has been a dream of mine to become a pastor for many years and with your help it is going to be possible. I am at Immanuel Lutheran in St. Charles serving as field worker because my wife Hannah teaches 4th grade there. She LOVES her class and is getting into quite the groove. I am very proud of her! Immanuel is a massive church and a little overwhelming at times, but I am enjoying it so far. I have participated in the readings, prayers, and taught an online Bible class. It has been a great experience and I look forward to doing more as the year goes on.

I had been doing hospice care with Lutheran Senior Services, but this was cancelled because of COVID cases. This is one of the many opportunities that has been taken away because of COVID. This fall I completed Systematics, Pastoral Theology, Historical Theology, and Hermeneutics. I loved all of my classes so far and look forward to learning how to preach and teach next semester. The class I am looking forward to the most next semester is Pauline Epistles with one of the best professors that we have here at Concordia Seminary. One of my favorite parts of seminary is that my older brother is here and is my next-door neighbor. The verse that has encouraged me the most during the pandemic and through classes is my confirmation verse, Jeremiah 29:11. I am eternally grateful for all of you who are helping me become a pastor and receive this amazing education. God bless you all! I hope to be able to thank you in person one day.

In Christ,



Josiah Schultz

BINGO NIGHT
LWML Meeting
Monday, February 15
7:00pm



There will be a brief meeting and then we will play BINGO for Mites. We will use coins to cover the numbers and when you win a BINGO, those coins will be placed in the Mite Offering. So dig deep in your couch and chair as well as all of the nooks and crannies in your vehicle for loose change. There will be extra coins available. Hope to see you there. Please sign up at the link below to register so that we have an idea of how many are coming. All ladies are welcome even if you don't sign up. Devotions will be by Tiffany Roiseland and hostesses are Marge Hollis and Cory Strumpel.

<https://forms.gle/ZeRRD3RkrnVE3FGm9>

HEY
EVERYONE!!
THE 2021
FLOWER
CALENDAR
IS UP!!



The 2021 Flower calendar is up on the bulletin boards by the restrooms ready to take signers for the 2021 year. Do you have a special occasion approaching? Why not flowers for the altar? There are still many dates that are empty that need names filled in.

COVID-19 VACCINATION UPDATE

From the Johnson Dept. of Public Health

COVID-19 Vaccine Phase 1B Tier 1 - Priority Populations

If you are a:

- ✓ first responder (i.e. police, firefighter, child welfare social worker) or
- ✓ pk-12 school, early childhood education or child care staff

Johnson County Public Health will work directly with leadership at these organizations. JCPH will instruct them which pharmacies will be scheduling vaccine appointments with staff.



As vaccine supply increases, additional providers and more appointments will be available.

February 1, 2021

COVID-19 Vaccine for Adults 65+

If you are:

- ✓ 65+ years old,
- ✓ a Johnson County resident
- ✓ AND have a UIHC or MERCY IC health care provider



UIHC or MERCY IC *MAY* call or email YOU to schedule a vaccine appointment. YOU SHOULD NOT CONTACT THEM. At the start there is limited supply so a limited number of eligible patients will be contacted. NO walk-ins available.



As vaccine supply increases, additional providers and more appointments will be available.

February 1, 2021



Be Peaceful – Be Prayerful – “Be Still and know the I am God”

PSALM 46 – “BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD”. We all know that part of Psalm 46, but read carefully the words that follow to complete that verse –

***“I WILL BE EXALTED AMONG THE NATIONS, I WILL BE EXALTED IN THE EARTH.
THE LORD ALMIGHTY IS WITH US; THE GOD OF JACOB IS OUR REFUGE.”***

Throughout the summer and even now, America’s streets fill with loud and many times violent Human Rights protests and it can be tempting to get caught up ourselves and join in the chaos and noise. Protests, in America, are considered one of our basic rights as long as they remain peaceful. **The question is: How is your Protest Posture?**

I was reading an article by Alveda King, niece of Martin Luther King, an extremely strong ProLife woman and her thoughts about how her Uncle, Martin Luther King, and 40 Days for Life use the most effective method to protest for human rights. Yes, the discussion has now realized that abortion is really a Right to Life Human Rights Issue. The Right to Life is first given by our God and then, in our Bill of Rights, is protected. Abortion takes that Human Right away by death.

During the Human Rights Protest of the 1950’s and 60’s, some of us remember vivid images of Reverend King leading large nonviolent groups which many times ended their marches by sitting down nonviolently which spoke silent volumes of Truth to the government and to the citizens of America. During 2020, 40 Days groups stood silently in prayer in front of abortion centers to save Pre-Born Babies in an all-time high of 588 locations! One of these locations was the Emma Goldman Clinic here in Iowa City. **God acted** and many Pre-Born Babies were saved, clinicians quit their jobs at the clinics, abortion clinics were closed and the sorrow and regret for all those moms, dads, and families was avoided by the Grace of God.

“BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD.”

Abortion thrives on chaos and is a direct attack on the life and love that God gives to us.
Be Peaceful – Be Prayerful – “BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD.”

Tom & Cory Strumpel
Lutherans for Life

***“Be on Guard. Stand firm in the Faith. Be Courageous. Be Strong.
Let all that you do, be done in Love.”*** | Cor. 16:13-14

2021 PANCAKE DAY IS GOING VIRTUAL

Even Though We Will Not Be Meeting In-Person

Our Support Is Still Needed For



ORLC's Pancake Day

Is An Important Fundraising Event For CommUnity

PLEASE MAKE A DONATION ON OR BEFORE MARCH 6th.

Cash/Check/On-Line

Make checks payable to ORLC.

Memo line = Pancake Day.

This will ensure that the funds collected will support **CommUnity**.

On-Line donations can be made through the **CommUnity** website.

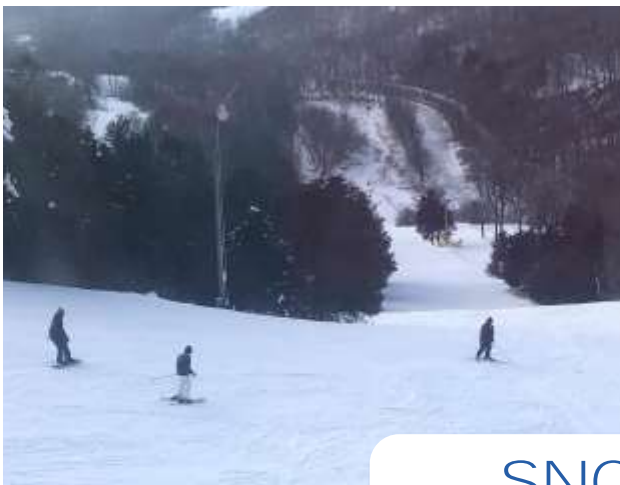
<https://builtbycommunity.org/pancake-day>



Youth Family Ski Day

Monday, January 18th

- ❄️ We had a wonderful group of families join us for the annual Youth Family Ski Day at Sundown Mountain in Dubuque.
- ❄️ God gave us beautiful weather and plenty of snow to enjoy a day on the slopes.
- ❄️ 32 people enjoyed skiing or snowboarding
- ❄️ Youngest skier was 3 years old



SNOW
MUCH FUN!



High School Epiphany Party



Epiphany (e-piph-a-ny)

(n) A moment of sudden revelation; a poignant, sudden, profound understanding of something.



WISE MEN
STILL
seek
HIM



Kings Cake
A plastic baby Jesus is hidden in the cake for us to "seek".

In Christianity:

	Myrrh represents Mortal Death
	Frankincense denotes the Holy Priest
	Gold signifies Royalty





In the Mail...
 The **High School** youth and **Kids Club** children made **30 College Care Packages** and sent them to college students from Our Redeemer.



Thanks to a Thrivent Action Team, the Youth were able to purchase goodies to put in the mailing envelopes, including sweet treats, practical items, a Thrivent shirt and a \$5 Subway gift card for each student!

One special item was a handmade, personalized card. Each youth and child picked a college student to make a card for and then drew artwork (such as the student's college logo, crosses or hearts) and wrote an individualized message to the student.



Thank you!

A huge thank you to Our Redeemer congregation members for their donations to cover the cost of mailing the packages!!





Submitted by Marcia Hulse

Stephen Ministry

We care, Christ cures.

Stephen Ministers are well-trained and supervised lay caregivers who provide one-to-one, distinctively Christian care to individuals experiencing a crisis or going through a difficult time in life. They have been recruited and carefully selected based on their gifts, abilities, and passion for care.

Stephen Ministers provide excellent care and support to people whose basic coping skills are generally intact. Their care receivers are probably capable of overcoming the challenges they face on their own—but benefit greatly from having someone to walk alongside them, encourage them, pray with and for them, and share their burdens.

Each Stephen Minister typically has one care receiver at a time (men are matched with men, women with women) and meet with that person on a regular basis to listen, care, empathize, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual support. A caring relationship continues for as long as the care receiver's need persists.

Stephen Ministers do not seek out their own care receivers. Rather, Pastor Hartwig matches them with people in need of care.

If you have questions about the work of the Stephen Ministers, feel free to talk to one of the Stephen Leaders or Stephen Ministers.

Could you or someone you know benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister? To receive a Stephen Minister's care, call Pastor Hartwig and tell him about your situation. Pastor will help you decide whether or not Stephen Ministry would be a good move for you.

Lord, thank You that with You I'm not alone even in my times of difficulties. Help me to enjoy my fellowship with You and to reach out to others. Amen

STEPHEN LEADERS

Pastor Hartwig	338-5626
Bill Benson	517-881-9848
Marcia Hulse	351-7059
Kathy Schweer	466-3084
Kevin Sellers	631-8924

Greetings to you all in the name of Jesus Christ, who comes to us!

As you probably know, "Let it snow, Let it snow, Let it snow!" is a popular Christmas time song that rings during this time of year. For so many people, and also for myself, snowflakes and a fresh layer of snow are associated strongly with Christmas celebration. Moreover, I don't think I have ever run into someone who doesn't love to have some fresh snow on Christmas Eve or Christmas day. However, as someone who really likes snow beyond just those two days, this year is going to be a very snow deficient year for my wife Amelia and I.

This year I am predicting that we will see the least amount of snow in the winter that we have ever seen in our lifetimes. In our years of growing up and living in Indiana and Iowa, we have seen many winters of lots of snow, but this year we are on our vicarage in Hickory, NC. Now even though we are in western North Carolina and at the bottom of the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, our area on average only sees about 2 inches of snow a winter. Yet, not seeing much snow this year will be only one of the many changes that I have had and will have this year as a vicar.

With all the craziness that has happened in 2020 being excluded, there will be many things that are different for Amelia and I, especially as we celebrate Christmas. Some of these changes are challenging. It is challenging this year trying to adjust our normal Christmas time plans with family because as a vicar I am working through the Christmas break that many people have off. We know we are going to miss our normal family Christmas celebrations. It is challenging not being able to hang out with and enjoy friends' company during the many small events that come up during the year as we live so far away from them. We have missed our friends from Seminary and home. And it has been an adjustment for me transitioning from student life (a life that I have had every year of my life that I can remember) to the working life that ebbs and flows and forces you to be flexible (but I still don't miss papers and tests).

However, there have also been many changes that have been a real joy for Amelia and I. It truthfully has been a great joy in the months since our marriage in June to do our lives together here in Hickory, to spend a lot of quality time, and get to know each other even more. It truly has been a joy to work together in jobs that we truly love, as she works with young kids as a 1st grade teacher and I work in the church serving God's people. It truly has been a joy for us to get to know some new people here at the



great congregation of St Stephen's Lutheran Church. We are thankful for the chance to have been able to coach the school's co-ed fall tennis team, a first-time coaching for both of us. We are thankful for all the hiking and outdoors time we have had so far here. We are thankful for

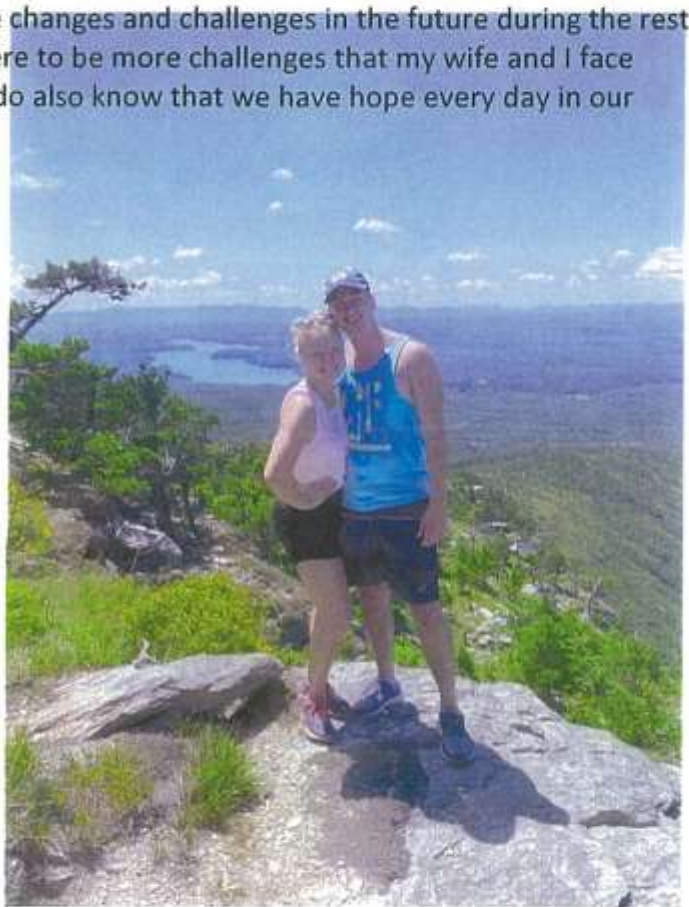
the love and amazing generosity the members have shown us so far here. Lastly, we are thankful for still being able to worship safely in person during Covid.

But despite all the things that have been different, both good and bad, since I have started vicarage, one thing stays the same! Our savior Jesus Christ stills comes to us as a lowly baby born in Bethlehem who humbled himself for you and for me. Jesus Christ lived a human life like you and me so that He knows what it is like to live in a sinful world full of challenges and changes. Our Savior even took on our sin, died, and rose from the dead so that we could have hope during this time of year. We have hope every day of the year knowing that He is coming back again for us soon while we work for His kingdom here on earth.

So yes, I do expect there to be even more changes and challenges in the future during the rest of my year as a vicar. I do also expect there to be more challenges that my wife and I face together in this sinful world. However, I do also know that we have hope every day in our Savior Jesus Christ who comes to us at Christmas and who we also know will come again! So come soon Lord Jesus, Amen.

God's richest blessings to you in Christ during this Christmas season,

Vicar Andrew Thompson



Preschool Newsletter

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



Children's Bell Choir

Keep watching for more information about our children performing in a



bell choir. We have started Practicing. Watch for service dates!

Sunday School

9:20am to 10:05am



Come in and share in the learning of **God's word!**



Masks/face coverings are required for participation in all Children's Ministry



Kid's Club

6:45pm to 8:00pm
Gathering Place

This week we will talk about
HANNAH

Contact Marnie Schrader to sign up!

Youth

6th - 12th Graders

February

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						

DATE	EVENT	TIME
3	Midweek Meal <i>Meal Crew: 8th Grade Families</i>	6 pm
	Confirmation Classes & High School Midweek	6:45 pm
5	Confirmation Winter Retreat <i>Fellowship Hall</i>	6 pm
17	ASH WEDNESDAY <i>Worship Service (no classes)</i>	7 pm
27/28	Noisy Offering <i>Bring your change this weekend to worship</i>	At all worship services

Midweek Meal

Wednesday, February 3rd

6:00 pm

MENU: Baked Chicken Drumsticks, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Dinner Roll and Dessert

MEAL CREW: 8TH Grade Families
Setup starts at 5:40 pm



Confirmation Winter Retreat

For all 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Confirmation students

Friday, February 5th

6:00—9:00 pm

Join us for a fun night, including dinner, Bible study, Confirmation review, and games!

Sign up at: <https://forms.gle/B3BznSoXe2AFFYnT9>



Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 17th

7:00 pm

(worship only, no classes)



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)
Donald 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 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)	Kate Ramsey, Preschool Assistant preschoolassistant@ourredeemer.org	338-3949 (preschool)

2021 Board of Elders

Bill Benson	517-881-9848
David Bohnsack (chair)	319-430-2054
Jim Eick	319-430-5603
Tim Eick	248-514-2881
Ryan Haack	319-325-7915
Skip Kempnich	319-351-5297
Eric Kooker	319-339-0175
Chad Pence	319-321-5686
Art Schwarting	319-325-6152

2021 Board of Directors

President	Myrl Holida	319-351-4301
Vice President	Denny Schrader	319-461-7318
Secretary	Barb Schanbacher	319-351-3998
Treasurer	Kari Kibby	319-573-4127
Board of Elders	David Bohnsack	319-430-2054
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.

From a Hurting Child of God

Psalm 143:5-8

A storm's come into my life again, dear Lord,

And my heart is so very sore—

Only You can turn it to good, my dear Lord,

Need I ask for anything more?

You always give me encouraging friends who've

Helped strengthen my faith through the years.

Through them I've felt Your warm, encompassing love;

Your hand that wipes away all tears.

I have been so grateful for all You have done

For my family and me through life.

You forgive me, bless me beyond wildest dreams;

You taught me You would handle strife.

I come before You, on bended knee, dear Lord,

To plead for Your mercy again;

To ask You to change this vast storm in my life

Into cool, gently falling rain.

Carol Schuldt