

# The Parish Beacon

Volume 43—No. 3

March 2022

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ –

***Things are not always what they seem!***

This was a lesson that I learned in a management training course at Disney University. Going through the management training program, this lesson stands out in my mind still today.

The instructor pointed over to the Bunn coffee maker and on the hot plate, there it sat. It had an orange plastic handle and ring around the top with a pouring spout. The clear glass was imprinted with the Bunn company logo and revealed the dark colored coffee contained inside. Pointing, the instructor asked, what is that. Well, even the most casual observer responded, “A pot of coffee.” We have seen that in every break room and every roadside café. Can’t you just see Alice, better yet, Flo from the TV show “Alice” wondering around the restaurant swinging her decanter of coffee. Regular? Or Decaf?

***Things are not always what they seem!***

Then the instructor walked over to the coffee pot, picked it up, and asked, “Who needs a refill?” To the left side of the room someone shouted, “Me!” The instructor walked over and tipped the decanter and nothing poured out. It was still black on the inside. Then the instructor said, “Things are not always what they seem!”

Most of the people at the Chicago Children’s Hospital did not know her name. They just knew her as the sweet, elderly lady in the vivid red suit who wanted to make sure that every sick child had a teddy bear to hug and caress. She kept bringing the stuffed animals, purchased with her own money. That is why she was simply called “The Teddy Bear Lady.”

Her name was Gladys Holm, a retired secretary for an insurance company, who lived alone in a tiny apartment. She lived modestly and frugally, and loved to save and invest – for the purpose of giving and helping people, especially sick children. When she died at age 86, her will simply directed that the bulk of her estate be given to the Children’s Memorial Hospital in the amount of \$18 million!

***Things are not always what they seem!***

No one had the slightest idea that the tall, happy woman delivering teddy bears to ailing children had such wealth. It was then, they also learned that the gifts of teddy bears were really a ruse. She gave away teddy bears to learn more about the financial resources of families of the children. When she learned that the parents did not have enough to cover medical expenses, she very quietly paid their bills.

***Things are not always what they seem!***

The coffee pot was not filled with coffee, but was coated with black paint on the inside of the glass decanter. The reality is that the teddy bears were only a ruse. Her real purpose was to find financially needy families.

***Things are not always what they seem!***

The same can be said about Jesus and the cross. Locked in the upper room because they feared for their lives, the disciples could not see the reality that Jesus’ death was God’s plan, was the fulfillment of all the prophetic prophecies, was the payment by Jesus, Our Redeemer. His death actually happened, but death could not hold Jesus.

***Things are not always what they seem!***

Jesus rose from the dead! Easter’s morning had come, and one day Easter’s morning will come for each Christian. I believe in the resurrection of the body. When death comes, things are not always what they seem, for this dead body shall rise!

***Things are not always what they seem!***

Remember this throughout the season of Lent which begins with Ash Wednesday on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Lenten blessings,  
Pastor Hartwig



**OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL**

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Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, in prayer Your Son, Jesus, revealed His glory to Peter, James and John. Grant that we, also gathered in prayer, would see Him by faith and receive from Him the redemption He has accomplished for us.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, Your Son shines in resurrected light. Illuminate Your Church with His own brightness, that she would tell the world of His mighty deliverance.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, as Your Son cares faithfully for His Holy Church, grant us a sure confidence in Him and give us faithful hearts to serve Him according to the callings He has given us.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty Father, You alone establish all authority on earth. Bless those entrusted with this responsibility both here and abroad, that they would serve with integrity and honor and for the well-being of all. Grant that all division, conflict and strife in our country would give way to unity, peace and quietness.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father of all comfort, as we follow the way of Your apostles into Your presence, You join our prayers to the ceaseless petitions of Your dear Son. Hear us for the sake of the troubled, the sick and the dying [*We especially pray for Theodore Alderman, Pete Berry (friend of Myrl and Denise Holida), Dorothy Blume (Carol Schuldt's sister), David Caplin (Lillian Moyer's son-in-law), Susan Carlson, Benita Carney, Earl Christensen (brother-in-law of George and Carol Schuldt), Mary Coblentz, Jody Cole (Charles Calef's friend), Larry Curran (Cathleen Loney's father), Chad Dyson, Emeel Elkeurti, Gwen Enokian, Jack Fesler (Denise Fesler's father-in-law), Debra Fuhrmeister, Gabe Hundley (grandson of Karen Abernathy), Dora Jacobson (granddaughter of George and Carol Schuldt), David Jones (Lonne Loney's uncle), David Johnson, Brad Koelper (Donna Saehler's nephew), Helen Jahnke, Lonne Loney, Norma Miller (Twyla Freeman's aunt), Barb Nace (Doris Siemer's niece), Bob Nace, Deloris Nace, Chad Pence, Nora Sellers (Great niece of Kevin & Laurel Sellers), Rozie Siems (Daughter of Mary Siems), Mark Wilson and Beth Wu (Schuldt's relative)].*

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we gratefully remember on this day the glorious manifestation of Your Son's divinity on the Mount of Transfiguration. Teach us to listen to Jesus and ever fix our eyes on Him and His innocent suffering and death for our forgiveness. By Your grace and mercy, strengthen us to remain faithful in all circumstances of trial, temptation and persecution. Preserve us to the end, that we may die a blessed death believing in Your beloved Son with whom You are well pleased.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord have mercy and hear our silent prayers.

[We pause for a moment for silent prayer.]

All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. **Amen.**

## THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Sun 2/27    Worship Service-In Person/Live Stream 8:00am  
 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 9:20am  
 Worship Service-In Person/Live Stream 10:30am  
 Trivia Challenge 12:00pm  
 District 10 Meeting 2:30pm

Mon 2/28    Staff Meeting 1:00pm  
 Sunlight AA Group 6:00pm  
 Iowa City Chamber Singers 6:30pm

**DUE\*\*\*\*    *SPRING CONFIRMATION RETREAT REGISTRATION***

Tues 3/1    Human Care Committee 6:30pm  
 SM-Training 6:45pm  
 Al-Anon 7:00pm

Wed 3/2    TOPS 8:00am  
**ASH**    Bible Study 11:00am  
**WEDNESDAY** Lunch Bunch 12:00pm  
 Ash Wednesday Service 1:00pm  
 Choir rehearsal 6:00pm  
 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm

Thurs 3/3    Comfort Tiers 9:00am  
 Visitation 11:00am  
 Over Eaters Anonymous 5:00pm  
 Women's Bible Study 7:00pm  
 Board of Elders 7:00pm  
 Al-Anon 7:30pm

Fri 3/4    \*\*\*

Sat 3/5    Pancake Day 7:00am-1:00pm  
 Worship Service-In Person/Live Stream 5:30pm

Sun 3/6    Worship Service-In Person/Live Stream 8:00am  
 Sunday school & Adult Bible Class 9:20am  
 Worship Service-In Person/Live Stream 10:30am



### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**\*\*WATCH YOUR FRIDAY EMAIL FOR LIVE STREAM 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: March 2 (Ash Wednesday),  
 5, 6, 19, 20\*\*\***

**Comfort-Tiers meet Thursdays at 9:00am**

**Choir practice Wednesdays at 6:45pm**

**Praise Team Practice schedule varies—  
 Contact Myrl Holida [myrl-holida@uiowa.edu](mailto:myrl-holida@uiowa.edu) or  
 Louise Klopp [choirdirector@ourredeemer.org](mailto:choirdirector@ourredeemer.org)**

# UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MARCH



Services:  
1:00pm &  
7:00pm

**MARCH 2**



**Our Redeemer  
Pancake Day**

**March 5  
7:00am-1:00pm**



**Move clocks ahead  
March 13**



**POPCORN PROVIDED**

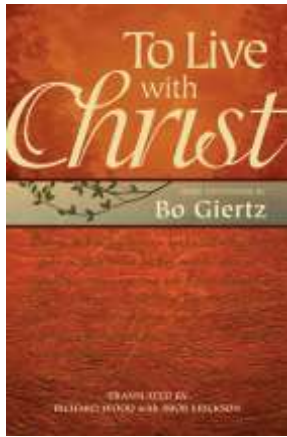
**March 24, 6:00pm**  
Fellowship Hall  
Upcoming "feature":  
Forrest Gump  
Rated (PG-13)



Who Am I?



**March 27  
12:00pm**  
Fellowship Hall



	<b>Calendar pause- Epiphany is longer this year</b>		
	<b>Devotional pause February 23-March 1</b>		
3/2	Wednesday after Quinquagesima, Ash Wednesday		p. 183
3/3	Thursday after Quinquagesima		p. 185
3/4	Friday after Quinquagesima		p. 187
3/5	Saturday after Quinquagesima		p. 189



**Building Healthy Families:** *“Oh be careful little eyes what you see...”* Remember this old Sunday School song? As simple as the lyrics may be, they hold a profound truth for us today. Some of the things we look at – in person or on a TV, computer screen or smart phone – aren’t good for us and aren’t God-pleasing. Our hearts and minds are imprinted with images and messages that negatively influence how we feel about ourselves and others. Be careful to avoid sites, shows and lyrics that don’t reflect God’s good will for you, His child. His designs and plans for you are oh so much better! *“Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways.” Psalm 119:37*

**Lutheran Family Service** - [www.LutheranFamilyService.org](http://www.LutheranFamilyService.org).

### Adult Bible Class

Date	Topic
January 9-February 27	<i>To Die with Christ: Christian Death and Burial</i>
March 6-April 10	<i>Theology of the Cross</i>
April 24-May 8; May 29	<i>The Philippians: To Live is Christ. To Die is Gain.</i>
May 22	<i>Sunday School Celebration</i>

### Upcoming Sunday School Lessons

Date	Scripture	Bible Lesson
February 27	John 5:1-17	<b>The Poolside Sign—Jesus heals at Bethesda</b>
March 6	Matthew 9:9-13	<b>The Matthew Matter—Jesus Calls Matthew</b>
March 13	Matthew 14:22-23	<b>A Water Wonder—Jesus Walks on Water</b>
March 20	Matthew 16:13-23	<b>A Confident Confession—Peter Confesses Christ</b>
March 27	Luke 9:28-36	<b>A Mountain Wonder—Jesus’ Transfiguration</b>

## Birthdays

Sun 2/27	Zach Aisenbrey, Ian Gates, Rita Knock
Mon 2/28	Joshua Miller, Shane Nicholson, Michael Palmer, Judy Schwartz
*** 2/29	Jacob Lothamer, Ryan Murken
Tues 3/1	Sara Cross, Cory Kreutz, Jenny Magsamen, Maryn Nieland, Jerry Strom
Wed 3/2	Carol Schuldt
Thurs 3/3	Noah Christensen, Wesley Hottel, Alex Kooker, Barb Schanbacher, Sandra Trimpe
Fri 3/4	Joan James, Chad Pence
Sat 3/5	Kacee Bell, Sarah Borotrager

## Stewardship—February 19/20

ATTENDANCE		TREASURES	
Recorded Service 2/19	25	Contributions	\$5,825.00
Sat. 2/19 In Person/LIVE STREAM 5:30pm	67	A Little Farther	\$1,500.00
Sun. 2/20 In Person/LIVE STREAM 8:00am	101	Monthly needs for budget	\$64,902.00
Sun. 2/20 In Person/LIVE STREAM 10:30am	135		
<b>TOTAL WEEKEND WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</b>	328	Sunday School/Adult Bible Class	27/57

Thank you for your continued support.



MISSION	February
Iowa District East	\$3,333.33
UIHC Chaplain Endowment Fund	\$250.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,583.33</b>
LCMS World Mission (Lutz)	\$500.00
Peace Officer Ministry	\$125.00
Housing Fellowship	\$500.00
<b>MONTH TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,708.33</b>
<b>MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	
CommUnity Crisis Center	***
Lutherans For Life	\$141.50
Concordia Seminary Food Bank	\$100.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,949.83</b>

## Membership Changes and Official Acts

<u>Transfer In</u>	
Kathy Carlson	02-08-2022
<u>Deaths</u>	
Robert Strange	02-21-2022
Paul Langehough	02-22-2022
<u>New Member</u>	
Susan Funk	02-25-2022



<b>Pledges received for the month of February</b>	\$20,502.49
<b>Total amount of pledges received</b>	\$304,662.95
<b>Total amount pledges promised</b>	\$365,174.87

# **Lenten & Holy Week Schedule 2022**

**Ash Wednesday—March 2**

**Services 1:00pm & 7:00pm**

**Lenten—March 9 to April 6**

**Services 1:00pm & 6:10pm**

**Midweek Meal 5:10pm**

**Midweek Classes 7:00pm**

**(No Midweek Classes—March 16)**

**Holy Week**

**Palm Sunday—April 10**

**Services 8:00am & 10:30am**

**Sunday School &**

**Adult Bible Class 9:20am**

**Prayer Walk—April 13**

**11:00am-7:00pm**

**Maundy Thursday—April 14**

**Services 1:00pm & 7:00pm**

**Good Friday—April 15**

**Kiwanis Prayer Breakfast 6:00am**

**Services 1:00pm & 7:00pm**

**Saturday Worship—April 16**

**Service 5:30pm**

**Easter Sunday—April 17**

**Service 7:30am, 9:00am & 10:30am**

**Easter Breakfast 8:30am**

## He Is Risen!



# 2022-2023 Enrollment Form



Child First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: Male Female Age as of September 15, \_\_\_\_\_ years

What year in school: Prek 3 OR Prek 4

## DAILY SCHEDULE:

7:30am Extended Care Drop off  
 9:00am Preschool Starts  
 9:30am Learning Centers  
 10:30am Snack/Bathroom  
 11:00am Outside Recreation  
 11:45am Story/Music  
 12:00pm Preschool Ends/Pick Up/Lunch  
 12:45pm Lunch Ends/Pick Up  
 1:00pm Story/Quiet Rest Time  
 3:00pm Snack  
 3:20pm Outside/Playground  
 4:00pm Learning Centers  
 5:30pm Day Ends/Pick Up

## OTHER INFORMATION:

- \* Our Preschool starts after Labor Day and ends before Memorial Day.
- \* Children may enroll throughout the school year as spaces allow.
- \* Scholarship information is available upon request.
- \* Extended Care hours - Students may be dropped off any time after 7:30am and picked up any time before 5:30pm.
- \* The morning snack will be provided by an assigned preschool student. Those preschoolers staying for lunch should provide their own bag lunch. No breakfast will be offered. An afternoon snack will be provided by the preschool.
- \* During Winter Weather you will be notified if: *(we follow the Iowa City School District)*
  - We are delayed, no preschool, extended care starting at noon.
  - We are cancelled, no preschool or extended care.
  - We are closing early, we have extended care.

## CHECK DESIRED PROGRAM:

_____ (M/W/F)	Preschool Program	9:00am-12:00pm	\$232/month
_____ (M/W/F)	Preschool Program with extended care LUNCH time	9:00am-12:45pm	\$305/month
_____ (M/W/F)	Preschool Program with MORNING extended care	7:30am-12:00pm	\$339/month
_____ (M/W/F)	Preschool Program with MORNING e.c. & LUNCH	7:30am-12:45pm	\$413/month
_____ (M/W/F)	Preschool Program with AFTERNOON extended care	9:00am-5:30pm	\$632/month
_____ (M/W/F)	Preschool Program with FULL day extended care	7:30am-5:30pm	\$742/month
_____ (T/TH)	Preschool Program	9:00am-12:00pm	\$170/month
_____ (T/TH)	Preschool Program with extended care LUNCH time	9:00am-12:45pm	\$218/month
_____ (T/TH)	Preschool Program with MORNING extended care	7:30am-12:00pm	\$244/month
_____ (T/TH)	Preschool Program with MORNING e.c. & LUNCH	7:30am-12:45pm	\$292/month
_____ (T/TH)	Preschool Program with AFTERNOON extended care	9:00am-5:30pm	\$438/month
_____ (T/TH)	Preschool Program with FULL day extended care	7:30am-5:30pm	\$510/month
_____ (5 Day)	Preschool Program	9:00am-12:00pm	\$384/month
_____ (5 Day)	Preschool Program with extended care LUNCH time	9:00am-12:45pm	\$505/month
_____ (5 Day)	Preschool Program with MORNING extended care	7:30am-12:00pm	\$565/month
_____ (5 Day)	Preschool Program with MORNING e.c. & LUNCH	7:30am-12:45pm	\$686/month
_____ (5 Day)	Preschool Program with AFTERNOON extended care	9:00am-5:30pm	\$1,051/month
_____ (5 Day)	Preschool Program with FULL day extended care	7:30am-5:30pm	\$1,234/month

*Financial scholarships are available for Preschool, not for extended care or lunch expenses. Scholarship Application due August 1<sup>st</sup>.*

Name of Parent(s) or Guardian(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Best Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Best Email \_\_\_\_\_

*Our Redeemer Preschool admits children of any race, color, nationality or ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities of the Preschool. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, nationality or ethnic origin in administration of the educational or admission policies. Our curriculum is Christian-based.*

Please mail your completed form along with the **\$50 non-refundable** registration fee made payable to:

### Our Redeemer Preschool

2301 E. Court Street  
 Iowa City, IA 52245

**Upon receipt of the Enrollment Form and fee, your child's spot will be reserved.** An enrollment packet will be sent to you containing all additional paperwork to be completed. Thank you for enrolling your child with Our Redeemer Preschool.

Updated: 1/19/2022



## TREASURER'S REPORT

- Total income was 773K and we predicted 778K
- Total expenses were 732K
- Despite some justifiable maintenance overages, our expenses were significantly lower than budgeted.
- We have a positive surplus of 40K for FY 21. This is being set aside to cover the cost of fixing the sinking footings at the parsonage. The surplus will be added to the principle of our loan.
- We have reduced our loans to 173K on 512 property and 4514K for Vision 2020. Over a million has been paid for the Vision 2020 project.
- We will be able to reduce the principle of our loan by an additional 40K in the first quarter of FY22.
- An accountant was hired temporarily to review all financials and were determined to be in fine fiscal shape.

With overages and funds from other sources,

**MOTION: the Board of Directors unanimously approved using the dollars, totaling \$82,027.47, to apply to the principal of the loan.**

## ELDER'S REPORT

- Completed the application process for a new Vicar for 2022-23.
- Will offer CPR training for Elders and ushers.

## AT-LARGE REPORTS-None

## CHURCH PROPERTIES

- The chair leg tips were replaced recently with tremendous help from church members
- Several small projects were completed
- A structural problem has developed at the Parsonage and will require repair soon. Anticipating an extra non budgeted expense,  
**MOTION: the Board of Directors unanimously voted to modify the previous motion by holding back 40K to pay for the project.**
- Major updates and improvements to Vicarage House
- Cleaning up duct work in the church building was done, mold was mediated. Will proactively clean ducts on a four-year rotation.

## STAFF REPORTS

### Pastor Hartwig-

- Thankful for 2021 and peace and accord that is among this congregation, and we prayed for the numerous congregations that are embroiled in controversy over pandemic issues.
- Gave thanks and praise to God for all the visitors we've had the past few months.
- All trips, retreats, NYG, etc. are now on for this year.

### Vicar Lewis-

### Youth Ministry-Kara Hartwig—

- Offered many youth activities.
- Excited about the return of all the youth trips, retreats, NYG, etc.
- Thankful for volunteers and encouragers whose children have outgrown youth ministry.
- Signups for all trips have begun.

### Small Group-Denise Holidia—

### Kaja Mueller—

- Lower attendance than in prior years
- Able to offer preschool every week
- Kate Ramsey was able to serve 2020-21 as a preschool assistant.
- **Preschool parents are grateful for excellent communication**
- Enrollment will begin soon for 2022-23 for pre-school.

### Other—None



KUDOS  
OUR REDEEMER'S  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
RECOGNIZES



BRENDA JOHNSON & PAM WILSON

for organizing workers to replace the chair leg tips in the Fellowship Hall. This huge project was completed with the greatest of ease because of their spear-heading this effort. The Board also thanks all the volunteers who helped to make this formidable task much easier.



# Jambo

Jesus in Action with the Matongo Beckers & Others



Newsletter of Rev. Vance and Linda Becker at Matongo, Kenya February 2022

## Christmas Visits

We were happy to make a visit to the U.S. during the Christmas break, our first after two years of being here. Despite some challenges with getting required COVID tests and weather related flight changes, we had a good trip. We enjoyed seeing brothers, sisters, children, especially grandchildren and Vance's Mother.



While visiting our daughter in Jackson, MS, we shared a presentation with Christ Lutheran Church and enjoyed meeting Pastor Fields and the people there. We also shared a presentation and were welcomed by Pastor Hageman and old friends at Trinity, Garden City, KS. Finally, while visiting our son, we shared with his church, St. James, Chicago, and Pastor Hess.



We look forward to many more church visits when we return this summer. We are working out our itinerary now.

*Please pray for us*, praising God for His presence throughout the world and His protecting angels, thanking Him for the encouragement of family and friends and asking Him to begin opening doors for our return visits.

## New Class in a Semester

We started a new semester on January 24. Vance is teaching several classes he has taught before: New Testament Introduction, Homiletics II, Lutheran Confessions and Symbolics (comparing the teachings of different churches). A new class is Pauline Epistles. He is still working to prepare all the materials for this class.

Some of these classes are larger, such as New Testament Introduction, which has 26 students, and so three of these classes meet in our new classroom which is larger than the

others. This means we no longer need to rearrange tables and chairs in chapel each day to hold classes there.

*Please pray for us*, praising

God for the working of His word, thanking Him for students with open hearts and minds, and asking Him to make all of us effective teachers and preachers of the gospel.

## Back with Books

While returning from the U.S., we were able to bring back some of the books which have been



purchased for use here. There are several hundred pounds of them all together so we had to prioritize which were needed first and which could fit into our luggage.

One book is

a New Testament Introduction, which is now being used for the class Vance is teaching. Another is a Bible handbook which those who are graduating this year will take with them. We brought some of the inexpensive Bibles and most of those have already been bought, for \$1 each, by students who had none.

We are looking forward to a visit by our son and wife next week who will be bringing more with them.

*Please pray for us*, praising God for His inspired word, thanking Him for providing the resources we need and asking Him to lead us to make wise use of them all.

## ***Bible reflection***

This past Christmas, people may have gotten various kinds of gifts. Some, like clothing or jewelry are for the receiver herself to use and are intended to make her look good.

Others, like food or artwork, can be kept to oneself or shared with others so they can enjoy them also. Some gifts, like many games, are worthless unless they are enjoyed along with others.

Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians, includes a long discussion of spiritual gifts. One thing that was apparently not understood about them seems to be related to another problem of boasting about who was greatest. Those with certain special abilities thought that they were for use in their own spiritual life and made them better Christians than others.

Paul answers that all of the gifts are for the purpose of benefiting, not ourselves, but others. They are for use in serving the whole church. If they are not used in a loving way that benefits others, they are worthless.

It is fitting that spiritual gifts are for use in serving others since they are given to us only because of Jesus who, even though he was greater than anyone, humbled himself in order to serve each of us. This is why he used all of his abilities to make sure that he suffered and died for us on the cross so that we can be forgiven and receive the most precious gifts of eternal life with him.

*Please pray for us*, praising God for choosing to give each of us gifts as He does, thanking Him for those who use their gifts to serve us and asking Him to help us all to have abilities, opportunities, and the desire to serve in ways that build up the church.

## ***Culture Contrasts***

One of the biggest differences between the culture here and what we have been used to is attitude about time. In the U.S. and much of western culture, people are very conscious about time. They expect things to start and end on time. Even those who are always late (we know who we are) are self-conscious about it.

People here are less time conscious. (Who knew Vance was always an African!) Punctuality tends to be a literally a foreign idea, even though leaders of events are often urging people to “keep time.” At the starting time for something, such as worship, is when people will soon start sifting in gradually.

We have heard that if something is scheduled to start at a certain time it means that is when you stop what you are doing and start getting ready to go to that event.

Part of the reason may be the unpredictable challenge of knowing how long it will take to get somewhere because you don’t know what could happen. In western culture, being late can be considered disrespectful to the people waiting for you. Here, being in a hurry to leave is disrespectful to the people you are with.

## ***People wonder...***

*Do you work together with other Lutheran mission organizations that help provide resources?*

This question was asked in response to what we have shared about our bringing books over from the U.S.

The answer is, “Yes.” Lutheran Heritage Foundation, which translates and publishes Lutheran books in various languages around the world, has an office in Nairobi and prints books here, some in Swahili and some in English. We are able to get books from them for free, such as the Small Catechism with explanation, and distribute them to students.

*If you wonder about a question, email [vance.becker@lcms.org](mailto:vance.becker@lcms.org)*

*Please pray for us*, praising God for knowing just what we need, thanking Him for partners and coworkers and asking Him to continue bless our fellow ministries.

**Contact us at the address below to let us know how we can be praying for you too.**

## ***Connect with us.***

Email us at [vance.becker@lcms.org](mailto:vance.becker@lcms.org) & [linda.becker@lcmsintl.org](mailto:linda.becker@lcmsintl.org), or send us postal mail at the Mission Central address below.

Help expand our network by liking [vance.becker.lcms](https://www.facebook.com/vance.becker.lcms) on facebook and sharing it and this newsletter with friends. Let us know about yourself and prayer requests. We will pray for you too.

## ***Financial support***

All our funding comes through the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, which is not just an office in St. Louis but the people and congregations. We are grateful for many generous people, for yearly & monthly gifts, and also single gifts.

A monthly or yearly gift is ideal, but a start-up gift is also very helpful.

- Checks written to LCMS with Becker/Kenya in the memo can be mailed to: *LCMS, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-66861* or *Mission Central, 40718 Highway E16, Mapleton, IA 51034-7105*,
- Give on-line at [www.lcms.org/givenow/becker](http://www.lcms.org/givenow/becker)
- or [missioncentral.us/becker](http://missioncentral.us/becker)
- Give by phone at 888-843-5267.

*Please pray for us*, praising God for daily providing out of Fatherly, goodness and mercy, thanking Him for those who are able to give generously, and asking Him to keep providing funds for this work.



Submitted by Marcia Hulse

# Stephen Ministry

We care,

## STEPHEN MINISTRY. *by the* NUMBERS

### Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

9

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church has been enrolled as a Stephen Ministry congregation since 2013. That's a total of 9 years of ministry! Our Stephen Leaders have taught seven cohorts and commissioned five.

5

Since enrollment, ORLC sent a total of 6 members to be trained as Stephen Leaders at Stephen Ministries' training conference, St. Louis. We currently have 5 Stephen Leaders.

42

Our Stephen Leaders have trained 42 Stephen Ministers to provide high-quality, one-to-one Christian care to hurting people in our congregation.



Since beginning Stephen Ministry, over 32 hurting people have received Christ-centered care from ORLC's Stephen Ministers.

Fourteen of our Stephen Ministers began serving the same year they were commissioned. They are still active and caring for people.

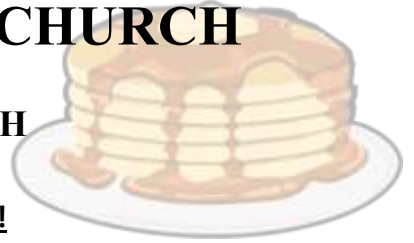
32

The Stephen Leader team estimates that Stephen Ministry at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church has provided about 2,165 hours of care.

2,165

14

# OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH PANCAKE DAY SATURDAY MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup>



**Pancake Day is drawing near!**

On **Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup>**, we will be supporting CommUnity (formerly The Crisis Center) with the proceeds from this event.

There are flyers and sign-up sheets out in the narthex, as well as tickets being sold after each service. You may also buy tickets from the church office.



We still need volunteers to assist in this event that reaches out to and provides benefit to the community. Please consider donating your time either the day of or setting up the day before Pancake Day.

“CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEEDS OF THE SAINTS AND SEEK TO SHOW HOSPITALITY.”  
- Romans 12:13

## ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN BAKE SALE



A Bake Sale to support Orphan Grain Train will be held in conjunction with the annual Our Redeemer Pancake Day fundraiser. The Orphan Grain Train provides physical relief for domestic and international disasters. Please consider donating baked goods to support this Lutheran outreach to those in need.

Donated items can be dropped off in the Fellowship Hall on the Friday (March 4) prior to Pancake Day. Contributions should include the name of the donated item and the suggested sale price. The bake sale itself is on March 5, during Pancake Day in the Fellowship Hall

Pat Sexton, Bake Sale Coordinator





We are FINALLY going to be able to have the LWML's 25th Tasting Bee after having to cancel it the past two years due to Covid. **Please come and help us celebrate on Saturday, April 23, 2022.** Masks will be worn before the Tasting Bee and while we are getting our food.

The theme for the Tasting Bee is: **"25 Years of Tasting Bee Memories"**. We would love to have our Table Decorators pick your favorite theme from any of the past Tasting Bees. We will have a list of past Tasting Bee's at our sign-up table. Please consider attending the Tasting Bee for "just a taste" of what all the good cooks in our church bring.

Tables will be set up in the Narthex beginning February 27<sup>th</sup> to sign up if you would like to decorate a table, bring a dish and share that recipe for the cookbook, or to help in the kitchen. **Please email all recipes for the cookbook to Sandy Wagner at: [packratsandy@yahoo.com](mailto:packratsandy@yahoo.com)**

If you have any questions, please contact one of us on the Tasting Bee Committee:  
Jennifer Kooker, Donna Saehler, Sandy Wagner & Lynne Westphal



### "In The Spotlight"

Our Redeemer would like to welcome new member Kathy Carlson. She is transferring in from Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rollo, MO.

Kathy is originally from Topeka, KS and has also lived in Orange, CA.

She enjoys gardening, cooking, sewing, and traveling. She also has been active in church life by serving at her previous church as chairman of the LWML and treasurer before that.

She likes to attend Adult Bible Study, Lunch Bunch, and LWML. Her daughter Susan Carlson is already here as a member.



Who Am I?



### Who Am I?

Coming March 27, 2022

12:00—2:00 pm

Fellowship Hall

We will gather for a Walking Taco lunch. After the meal, stay to meet the people who are playing a role of a Biblical characters whose life was changed when they came in contact with Jesus. Guess the names of each Bible character you meet and find out WHO is WHO at the end. This event is for everyone, so please invite your neighbors, family, and friends.

# You and God Get to Make Choices



Other than Taxes and Death, there is one other certainty in Life and that is that we all get to make choices. Let's start with God making choices as He states in the *Gospel of John 15:16* –

**“You did not choose me, but I (God) chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit.”**

God chose you and that changes everything! You are not an accident or an afterthought. God chose you into existence. Your body proves that. You are a creation of God. God made the Choice to bring you into this world, because He has a plan for you. In John 15:16 it says that God chose you to go and bear fruit. You are special and precious from fertilization to forever.

**You are priceless, whatever your age, abilities and appearance.**

**God chose you to embody and to protect the SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE!**

**What a Great Choice for God to create and Love Human Life!**

*Now, we get to make our choices!* That is so exciting! How do we know what choices to make? A failsafe plan would be to make the same choices that God makes. Pretty easy, really. A solid choice would be to choose to Love all Life from fertilization to death. God would like that! Another beautiful choice would be to Choose to speak out for the Preborn babies because they don't have their own voice. More choices would involve Choosing to Love and support mom's in a crisis pregnancy. Did you know that there is a medical clinic in Iowa City that provides free ultrasounds along with caring prenatal and postnatal care?

**It called INFORMED CHOICES and is located at 821 S. Gilbert St. Iowa City (319-519-4471). Choose Love, Choose Life...**

You could also choose to become involved in **40 DAYS FOR LIFE**. The **40 DAYS of prayer vigils** will begin on March 2 and conclude on April 10<sup>th</sup>. **40 DAYS** of prayer and fasting to save babies lives and provide love and support to moms who need it most. For more information, go to:

JCRTL.org. ***Because we choose to be a ProLove/ProLife congregation, watch for coming information in Reflections.***

**God has made His Choices; now it is time for you to make your choices.**

***“Be on Guard. Stand firm in the Faith. Be Courageous. Be Strong.  
Let all that you do, be done in Love.” 1 Corinthians 16:13-14***

# January 30

the NOT SO  
*Newlywed  
Game*



Thanks to our Not So Newlywed contestants—third place Erica and Turner Watkinson, second place Tiffany and Kevin Roiseland, winners Skip and Marilyn Kempnich



Grand prize gift basket



About 40 in attendance



Audience enjoyed a potluck of appetizers and snacks and cheered on the contestants







Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
Mission Committee

# PANAMA UPDATE

Through the generosity of Our Redeemer's congregation, over \$9000.00 was sent to the Lutheran Church of Panama in 2021.

These funds will support many needs.

One of the most important needs is to help the church in Loma Cova have the fulltime support of Pastor Patricio.

Keep reading future Beacons for Panama updates.

## THANK YOU!

Denise Holida

Anita Nicholson

Val Penney

Bob Powers (Chairman Pro Tem)



Pastor Patricio



God Is Great Lutheran Church



Loma Cova



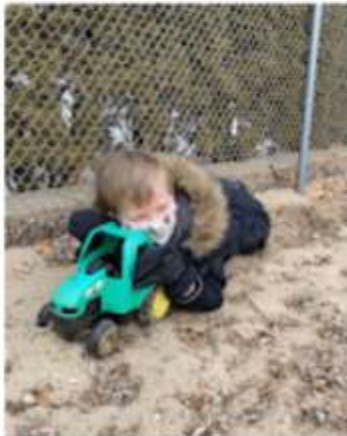
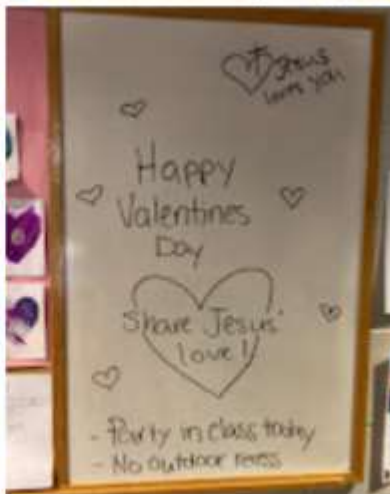
# March in Preschool

Director/Teacher, Kaja Mueller

Assistants, Kate Ramsey M/W/F, Sara Cross T/TH

Preschool Phone: 319-338-3949 [www.ourredeemerpreschoolic.org](http://www.ourredeemerpreschoolic.org) [preschool@ourredeemer.org](mailto:preschool@ourredeemer.org)

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





# Children's Ministry

Birth—5<sup>th</sup> Grade



**Toddlin' age — 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

9:20 a.m. — 10:15 a.m.

*Invite your friends and come learn about Jesus!*

February 27	Lesson 9: John 5:1-17	The Poolside Sign— Jesus heals at Bethesda
March 6	Lesson 10: Matthew 9:9-13	The Matthew Matter— Jesus Calls Matthew
March 13	Lesson 11: Matthew 14:22-23	A Water Wonder— Jesus Walks on Water
March 20	Lesson 12: Matthew 16:13-23	A Confident Confession— Peter Confesses Christ
March 27	Lesson 13: Luke 9:28-36	A Mountain Wonder— Jesus' Transformation



**KIDS CLUB**

4 year olds — 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Wednesday nights

7:00 pm Kids Club/Midweek

**Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**There will be no Kid's Club**  
**since it will be**  
**Ash Wednesday**

**Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**Lesson: Baptism Window**

*Join us for Lenten Meal,  
 Lenten Worship, Midweek,  
 and Kids Club*

## KIDS CLUB SUNDAY

**February 13**

The children sang 3 songs that they learned in Kids Club:

- Old Testament Books of the Bible
- New Testament Books of the Bible
- Jesus is My Treasure

They also told the congregation about the fun things they do on Wednesday nights...



make crafts, play games,  
 learn about our Christian  
 faith using the stained glass  
 windows and eat snacks!



## In the Mail...

On Wednesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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, they were able to pack the boxes with snacks, sweet treats, practical items and a Thrivent t-shirt for each student!



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



This service project is a favorite for the youth who pack the boxes and with the college students who receive the packages!



# Our Redeemer Bowling Day

Sunday, February 13, 2022



## Colonial Lanes

We enjoyed a pizza lunch and had a great time bowling!



Thanks to Thrivent for helping fund this event!





# Winter Confirmation Retreat

February 4-5, 2022

21 students participated  
Held at the Drury Inn in Coralville

Theme:  
Winter Olympics 2022—Win the Race!

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that



We competed in 2 games:  
Luge & Speed Skating



Olympic Training  
As Christians, we focus on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.

# Youth

6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Graders

March

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	31		



## UKANDU

Registration ended on February 15<sup>th</sup>, and we have a group of 21 youth and adults registered to serve at UKANDU this summer.

As our group looks forward to “Life On Mission — 2022”, please pray for God to work in us and through us to His glory as we help others during this week-long servant event.

*“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10*



**Ash Wednesday Service**

**Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**7:00 pm**

*(worship only, no classes)*

DATE	EVENT	TIME
2	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> <i>Worship Service (no classes)</i>	7 pm
9	<b>Lenten Meal</b> <i>7<sup>th</sup> Grade Families help</i> <b>Lenten Worship Service</b>  <b>Confirmation Classes</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Gospel of Mark 10-16 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade EXAM REVIEW 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Passover Meal w/ parents  <b>High School Midweek</b>	5:10pm Meal 6:10pm Service  7 pm Classes
15	<b>UKANDU Payment DUE</b> <b>Gathering 2022 Payment DUE</b>	
16	<b>Lenten Meal</b> <b>Lenten Worship Service</b> <i>(no Midweek classes)</i>	5:10pm Meal 6:10pm Service
23	<b>Lenten Meal</b> <b>Lenten Worship Service</b> <b>Confirmation &amp; Midweek Classes</b>	5:10pm Meal 6:10pm Service 7 pm Classes
30	<b>Lenten Meal</b> <i>Conf &amp; HS Youth families help</i> <b>Lenten Worship Service</b> <b>Confirmation &amp; Midweek Classes</b>  <b>DUE for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation:</b> <i>Banner, Paper and All Sermon</i> <i>Summaries</i>	5:10pm Meal 6:10pm Service 7 pm Classes

## LCMS Youth Gathering

In July, Our Redeemer will take a group of 27 youth & adults to the LCMS Youth Gathering in Houston.

*For those youth registered,  
payment dates are:*

March 15 Payment #1 \$120.00

April 15 Payment #2 \$110.00

May 15 Payment #3 \$110.00

Please make checks payable to “Our Redeemer” with “NYG” on the memo line. Give payments to Kara.



## 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](mailto:prayerchain@ourredeemer.org)    Special Announcements Line: 338-3505

<u>STAFF &amp; EMAIL</u>	<u>PHONE NO.</u>	<u>STAFF &amp; EMAIL</u>	<u>PHONE NO.</u>
Brent Hartwig, Senior Pastor <a href="mailto:bhartwig@ourredeemer.org">bhartwig@ourredeemer.org</a>	338-5626 (church) 337-2403 (home)	Kaja Mueller, Preschool Director <a href="mailto:preschool@ourredeemer.org">preschool@ourredeemer.org</a>	338-3949 (preschool) 338-5626 (church)
Kyle Lewis, Vicar <a href="mailto:vicar@ourredeemer.org">vicar@ourredeemer.org</a>	338-5626 (church)	Lorrie Bailey, Office Coordinator <a href="mailto:redeemer@ourredeemer.org">redeemer@ourredeemer.org</a>	338-5626 (church)
Sara Cross, Preschool Assistant <a href="mailto:preschoolassistant@ourredeemer.org">preschoolassistant@ourredeemer.org</a>	338-3949 (preschool)	Sarah Gabel, Bookkeeper <a href="mailto:bookkeeper@ourredeemer.org">bookkeeper@ourredeemer.org</a>	338-5626 (church)
Kara Hartwig, Youth Coordinator <a href="mailto:youthcoordinator@ourredeemer.org">youthcoordinator@ourredeemer.org</a>	338-5626 (church)	Denise Holida, Adult Coordinator <a href="mailto:smallgroups@ourredeemer.org">smallgroups@ourredeemer.org</a>	338-5626 (church) 930-0165 (cell)
Louise Klopp, Director Choirs/Properties <a href="mailto:choirdirector@ourredeemer.org">choirdirector@ourredeemer.org</a>	338-5626 (church)	Marilyn Paetz, Organist <a href="mailto:organist@ourredeemer.org">organist@ourredeemer.org</a>	351-4262 (home)
Laurel Sellers, Consultant <a href="mailto:consultant@ourredeemer.org">consultant@ourredeemer.org</a>	319-331-3242 (cell)	Kevin Sellers Director of Technology <a href="mailto:technology@ourredeemer.org">technology@ourredeemer.org</a>	338-5626 (church) 631-8924 (cell)
		Sheena White, Preschool Assistant <a href="mailto:preschoolassistant@ourredeemer.org">preschoolassistant@ourredeemer.org</a>	338-3949 (preschool)

### 2022 Board of Elders

Bill Benson	517-881-9848
David Bohnsack	319-430-2054
Tim Eick	248-514-2881
Rick Gienapp	319-331-7425
Ryan Haack	319-325-7915
Skip Kempnich	319-351-5297
Eric Kooker	319-339-0175
Chad Pence (Chair)	319-321-5686
Art Schwarting	319-325-6152

### 2022 Board of Directors

President	Arlan Thompson	319-338-2938
Vice President		
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
	<i>Vacancy</i>	

### 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.



# ROCKS

Romans 10:10

**There're rocks in my garden I've hit with my hoe...**  
and rocks in our yard—finding more when we mow.

One cannot plant seeds with rocks in the way,  
for nothing can grow—**it just doesn't 'pay'.**

**Out of my 'comfort zone', I've found quite a few**  
to stumble upon when facing something new.

Sometimes it feels like I have rocks in my head--  
**I can't absorb ideas**--my mind feels dead!

**Are there rocks in my heart? I truly hope not...**  
**then the Word of God couldn't grow,**  
but just would rot.

Carol Schuldt

