Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

I write this as packing the house begins to subtly turn from top-priority to impending emergency. My wife has expressed that maybe we could just throw all of our stuff away instead and buy everything anew when we get back down to the seminary. We've forgotten all the things that we've accumulated over just the past year, notably a lot of baby things like a crib, toys, and clothes. But it's a time to consider what is important and what can be thrown away.

I'd consider Jesus' encounter with the rich young man. The man, seeking eternal life, tells Jesus that he's kept the commandments from his youth. And Jesus, out of love, tells him that he's lacking one thing. Maybe more accurately, it's not a matter of lack but of abundance. Jesus tells him to sell all that he has and give it to the poor, then he will have treasure in heaven.

Now, wealth isn't necessarily evil. It can be a blessing from God, or it can be a curse. But the point is that the rich young man held his wealth in his heart. It was the object of his desire more so than God, and if anything, eternal life would just be another jewel added to his treasury. Life in Christ and the blessings of heaven though are the only true and lasting treasure. And when other things impede that, they need to get tossed out.

Holly and I are holding onto a lot of stuff, but some things we've had to make the hard decision to part ways with. Often times going back and forth over items. Wondering where it might go in our next home, which box it will fit in, or maybe it would look best in the dumpster. But it isn't a simple box to check. It's a process.

And our life in Christ is a process. Not a simple box that is checked. Not a quick dunk in the baptismal font. But a process. As long and drawn out as God gives us days to live. And we have many things before us. Riches, like those of the rich young man, that impede us on our way to the heavenly Jerusalem as well as blessings that enrich us on our journey.

It's more than just a matter of material things too. Habits that we cultivate, relationships that we have with others, and attitudes that we carry with us. As Holly and I, at the time of writing this, are physically packing things to keep and deciding what to toss, I'd encourage you to do so spiritually. Consider what you should keep that enriches you on your heavenward journey and what is left to be swallowed up with the rest of the earth.

Things such as spending too much time on your phone can be a habit that is tossed. While waking up early to pray and do a devotion is something to start, keep, or enrich further. The negative attitude that you hold towards that person that annoys you at work is something that you can start trying to toss out. These are a few examples, but the call of Christ is comprehensive and challenges us to examine our lives as a whole. To challenge us to live in such a way that draws us nearer to him, and farther from the world. To challenge us to look forward more to the new heavens and the new earth than the next new hit film.

And as we part ways, I thank you for your prayers and kindness this past year. It has been a blessing to be here with you and I hope that I have been able to be a blessing to you as well. And I look forward to seeing you again, yes here on earth, but more importantly in our heavenly home where our Lord Jesus has called us.

God's Blessings, Vicar Lewis



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

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

Lord of hosts, Your Son has taught us to pray that Your name would be hallowed and Your kingdom come, and for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us trusting hearts that turn to You in all joy and sorrow, finding in Your fatherly goodness and will all that we ask, seek, need or desire.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord of hosts, Your righteous Son intercedes on behalf of sinners before Your throne. When the outcry of our sin troubles us, grant faithful pastors to speak Your Word of warning and comfort, that we may be drawn in repentance to His cross and seek shelter in His mercy, and so escape destruction.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord of hosts, You have given all rule and authority to Jesus Christ, our Lord. May our homes be permeated by Your Word, that all families may dwell in the light of Your Son. Grant Your Holy Spirit to husbands and wives, parents and children, young and old, and all who live alone, that we may not be taken captive by the spirit of the world but rather built up into Him who is the Head.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord of hosts, You judge the sinful deeds of man in righteousness. Grant us civil leaders who serve in accordance with Your will, condemning what is evil and approving what is good. May all nations be brought to see the wisdom and glory of Your Son and dwell together in peace and humility.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord of hosts, You give good gifts to Your children. Grant Your Holy Spirit to [Pete Berry (friend of Myrl and Denise Holida), Dorothy Blume (Carol Schuldt's sister), Ernest Bowman, Joanne Bowman, David Caplin (Lillian Moyer's son-in-law), Susan Carlson, Jody Cole (Charles Calef's friend), Emee Elkeurti, Debra Fuhrmeister, Emma Haugen (Friend of Gwen Enokian), Gabe Hundley (grandson of Karen Abernathy), Dora Jacobson(granddaughter of George and Carol Schuldt), David Jones (Lonne Loney's uncle), Brad Koelper (Donna Saehler's nephew), Mike Kopf, Joanne Leeper (mother of Cathleen Loney), Cathleen Loney, Norma Miller (Twyla Freeman's aunt), Barb Nace (Doris Siemer's niece), Bob Nace, Deloris Nace, Rozie Siems (Daughter of Mary Siems), Reece Ullerich, Mark Wilson, Beth Wu (Schuldt's relative) and Tim Zimmerman] and all those who suffer in body, mind and soul, that confident in Your mercy, they may look to You for comfort and peace in their afflictions. Grant them healing according to Your will and patience to bear their crosses.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord of hosts, in life and in death you abide with us. Be with the family and friends of *Pat Karnes* as they mourn her death. 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.

Lord of hosts, listen to our silent prayers.

[Pause 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 7/24 Worship Service-In Person/Live Stream 8:00am

Summer Sunday School 9:20am

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

District 13 2:30pm

Mon 7/25 Staff Meeting 1:00pm

Sunlight AA Group 6:00pm

VBS Meeting 6:00pm

Tues 7/26 Al-Anon 7:00pm

Wed 7/27 TOPS 8:00am

Emerson Point 2:00pm

Thurs 7/28 Comfort Tiers 9:00am

Over Eaters Anonymous 5:00pm

Al-Anon 7:30pm

Fri 7/29 Youth Gathering Presentation Prep 7:00pm

Sat 7/30 Worship Service-In Person/Live Stream 5:30pm

Sun 7/31 Worship Service-In Person/Live Stream 8:00am

Farewell NYG Presentation 9:20am

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

Lewis Vicar's Farewell Lunch 12:00pm



The new vicar will be arriving on August 5.
Please stay tuned for updates for those whose would like to help Vicar and Caroline Garrett unload and move into the Vicar's House.



Farewell & Godspeed to our Vicar

July 31 will be Vicar Lewis's last Sunday in the Our Redeemer pulpit. Plan to attend the farewell lunch for him and his family following late service—meat and beverages will be provided. Please bring side dishes and desserts to share. A freewill offering will go to the Lewis family to help defray next year's expenses as he completes his seminary training. Vicar Lewis will be needing help loading the moving van on August 1, 9:30am to 11:30am.



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
Communion: August 6, 7, 20, 21*

Sunday School 9:20am—In Person
Adult Bible Study 9:20am—Fellowship Hall/ZOOM

Bible Study/Lunch Bunch meets on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 11:00am

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 or
Louise Klopp choirdirector@ourredeemer.org

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR AUGUST



Vicar & Caroline Garrett Arrive
August 5



Vacation Bible School August 7-11 5:00pm Fellowship Hall



August 14 11:45am Outdoors



Worship at the Cross
August 14
10:30am
Outdoors



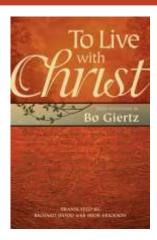
ROAD TRIP August 20



LLL Steak Fry August 23, 6:oopm Fellowship Hall



School Starts Iowa City August 23



7/24	Sixth Sunday after Trinity	p. 466
7/25	Monday after Sixth Sunday after Trinity	p. 468
7/26	Tuesday after Sixth Sunday after Trinity	p. 470
7/27	Wednesday after Sixth Sunday after Trinity	p. 472
7/28	Thursday after Sixth Sunday after Trinity	p. 474
7/29	Friday after Sixth Sunday after Trinity	p. 476
7/30	Saturday after Sixth Sunday after Trinity	p. 478



Building Healthy Families: Know anyone who struggles with perfectionism...perhaps you? Although motivated by a desire for good, perfectionism has been aptly described as a fast and enduring track to unhappiness. Whether it's your chaotic system of storing tax receipts, the disorder in your workshop or hobby room, or the messiness of your life in general, give yourself a break and remember this good news: You are saved by grace, not by works. The pressure is off. Always do your best but don't let a mistake or an error or a bad habit define you. "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus...." (Romans 8:1-2)

Lutheran Family Service - <u>www.LutheranFamilyService.org</u>.



If they come, we can build it!

NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP REPAIR THE WOODEN FENCE AT THE PARSONAGE



SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, BEGINNING AT 9:30 a.m.

This is a large project (remove fence pickets, repairing fence posts and reassembling fence), so we are in need of a lot volunteers! If you're available for the day and/or a few hours, we would greatly appreciate your help!

The sign-up sheet will be on the counter outside the office door.

Or, let Louise Klopp or Dave Yansky know whenever you can be available.



Some tools to bring with you: Cordless drill Claw hammer. Pliers.



Heavy-duty protective work gloves.

Birthdays

Sun 7/24	Lorrie Bailey, Daniel Glandorf, Colten Hunter, Kimberly Sanders, Christian Schwarting, Jason Sexton
Mon 7/25	Craig Benson, Juan Capitan, Carmen Davis, Carmen Marks, Barb Pronk, Jacqueline Ross, Cora Schneider
Tues 7/26	Jackson Nemitz, Faith Pederson, Mark Schweer, Emerson Sexton
Wed 7/27	Daniel Juhl
Thurs 7/28	Dillon Bruckman, Cade Obermueller
Fri 7/29	Amy Frantz, Kelsey Johnston, Olga Will
Sat 7/30	Andrew Bell, Kelly Carlson, Kristene Lake, Lonne Loney, Alexander Rasmussen,
	Amanda Saterfield, Cade Sexton, Zoey Sexton

Stewardship—July 16/17

ATTENDANCE		TREASURES	
Recorded Service 7/16	14	Contributions	\$4,438.00
Sat. 7/16 In Person/LIVE STREAM 5:30pm	71	A Little Farther	\$150.00
Sun. 7/17 In Person/LIVE STREAM 8:00am	77	Monthly needs for budget	\$64,902.00
Sun. 7/17 In Person/LIVE STREAM 10:30am	112		
TOTAL WEEKEND WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	274	Adult bible Class/Sunday School	42/10



MISSION	June/July
Iowa District East	\$6,666.66
UIHC Chaplain Endowment Fund	\$500.00
TOTAL	\$7,166.66
Common Fund	\$500.00
Lutheran Hour	\$375.00
Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca	\$500.00
Lutheran Family Services	\$375.00
Orphan Grain Train	\$125.00
St. Paul's Chapel	\$375.00
MONTH TOTAL	\$9,416.66
CommUnity Crisis Center	***
Lutheran Hour	\$200.00
Concordia Seminary Food Bank	\$300.00
TOTAL	\$9,916.66

Pledges received for the months of June/July	\$11,121.13
Total amount of pledges received	\$335,807.36
Total amount pledges promised	\$365,174.87



Membership Changes and Official Acts

-	
<u>Deaths</u>	
Theodore Ray Alderman	06-06-2022
David LeRoy Johnson	06-06-2022
Patrician Kay Karnes	07-20-2022
<u>Baptisms</u>	
Crew Andrew Borntrager	05-28-2022
James Paul Patino	06-24-2022
<u>Transfer In</u>	
Daniel, Jamie & Natalie Heren	06-20-2022
Kennedy Kruse	07-11-2022



Stephen Ministry

We care, Christ cures.

Waiting

Waiting is hard. Whether we are waiting for something joyful or anticipating something sorrowful, waiting can leave us with a sense of powerlessness and uncertainty. The outcome for which we wait may not be within our control, nor may it be to our liking. Whether we are waiting for test results from the doctor, for an acceptance letter from a college, or for justice to come, waiting is hard.

Stephanie received a phone call at 4:00 a.m. that her daughter Jennie was in ICU. How? She had just run a mini-marathon. In the final stretch, her son ran beside her. Outside the ICU, the story spills. Jennie and her family were celebrating her successful race. She took a bite of her food, choked, quietly rose, and tried to make it to the restroom. Her husband asked her if she was choking. She nodded. She collapsed during the Heimlich maneuver. She now lingers in a coma. Seeing her like this hit Stephanie like a punch in the stomach.

Scanning the TV footage of the race, Stephanie glimpsed half-a-second of Jennie, her arms down, bobbing towards the finish line. At forty-two, Jennie was running strong with the end in sight. And now we wait. Waiting is hard.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." — Proverbs 3:5-6, NKJV. We should at all times, include God in everything we do, and this way, we give Him a chance to keep us on the right track. We may not always know what lies ahead.

"Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." — Luke 22:42, NRSV. Instead of letting fear overwhelm Him or sink Him into despair, Jesus dropped to His knees and prayed, "Father, not my will, but yours be done." We can follow Christ's example and humbly submit our looming concerns into our heavenly Father's secure hands.

Perhaps, like all of us, you have prayed over and over about a specific concern, but God has seemed silent. While God has been faithful to answer many of our prayers, it's often been in far different ways than we would have anticipated! God knows the only way to do what we both desire will, at times, involve varying degrees of discomfort in our life.

A Stephen Minister could help reassuring us that God is with us. Being there as we bring the troubles to God, trusting that even in our waiting, God will be near. What a comfort to know that God is with both the care receiver and the Stephen Minister.

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



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Mission Committee
Highlighting the Christian/humanitarian work of our congregation as a whole and as individuals.

Here and around the world.

PANAMA

Future Short-Term Mission Trips

The Mission Committee is praying that a short-term mission trip can be arranged for Spring 2023.

There are still MANY logistical hurdles to overcome.

Updates will be published in the Beacon & the Reflections newsletters as information becomes available.





Some Panama / Iowa Comparisons.

Panama landmass = 29,000 square miles

Iowa landmass = 56,000 square miles

Panama population = 3,850,000

Iowa population = 3,000,000

Famous for the Panama Canal

The official currencies are the Panamanian Balboa (PAB) and the US Dollar (USD).

The PAB/USD exchange rate = 1:1

Food/water is safe to eat/drink in the larger cites.

Panama's cost-of-living is 40% less than Iowa.

There is a sizable USA expat retirement community in Panama because of the cheaper cost-of-living.

Mission Committee Members

Denise Holida / Anita Nicholson / Val Penney / Bob Powers (Chairman Pro Tem)

The four seasons porch at the parsonage is repaired!









Above: Day 1/Some demolition to remove the old footing and the start of the new one.



New footing has been poured and now it sets and cures.





Forms are put in place & new concrete slab is poured.







Lets not forget the finishing touches to make this project complete.



The finished product The footing is complete and the upper porch is now made safe again.



Thank you to the
Properties
Committee,
volunteers, and
concrete people
for a job well done!

Preschool Summer 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!

Things NOT to worry about when your child starts school:



Claims he/she isn't going to be invited to someone's birthday party. Birthday parties are standard preschool bargaining chips as in—"If you don't give me a turn on the swing right now, I won't invite you to my birthday party." Rest assured that such threats have nothing to do with actual parties.

Preschool Centers:

BLOCKS - Enable children to...

- *express creativity
- *discover concepts of quantity, length and inequality
- *plan and work with one another to solve problems
- *use building as a means of non-verbal expression
- *develop large and small muscle control *improve eye-hand coordination

Enroll your child in preschool today!

Spaces are filling up! The enrollment link is also available on our website at www.ourredeemer.org



Questions to ask kids:



If you were a teacher, and the kids in your class would not listen to you, what would you do?

Where is your favorite place in the world?







Consign through the Stuff; this is a fundraiser for our preschool. You can donate items by dropping them off yourselves or placing them in a box outside the preschool. Preschool will receive 50% of the profit from the donated items that are sold at Stuff. All items given to Stuff will be a donation if they cannot sell them.

Iowa City #43522



Children's Ministry

Birth-5th Grade



Toddlin' age — 12th Grade 9:20 a.m. — 10:15 a.m.

Invite your friends and come learn about Jesus!

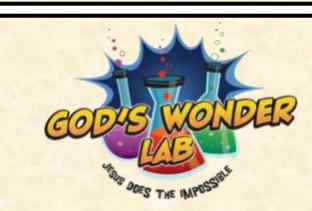
Date	Scripture	Bible Lesson			
July 24	Betrayed and Arrested—Jesus in Gethsemane				
July 31		NYG Presentation			
August 7	Mark 14:53-72	Standing Trial—Jesus on Trial/Peter Denies Jesus			
August 14	No Class—Setup for Outdoor Worship, Church Picnic, and Fun Faith Fest				
August 21	Mark 15:16-16:8	The Living Wonder—Jesus' Death and Resurrection			
August 28	John 20:19-31 The Proof Rom—Jesus Appears to Thomas				
September 4	No Class—Labor Day Weekend				
September 11	Rally Day—1st day of regular school year Sunday School Teacher Orientation during Sunday School				

KIDS CLUB

4 year olds -5th grade



We will be resuming Kid's Club activities in the fall. Watch Reflections for future notifications of activities.



Vacation Bible School 2022
August 7th—11th
Starting at 5:00pm in the
Fellowship Hall
Come join the fun, kids!



6th - 12th Graders

August

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			

DATE	EVENT	TIME
8/7		5:00 pm
8/8	Vacation	
8/9	Bible	
8/10	School	
8/11	THE THE SITE OF THE STREET	
8/14	Set up for Fun Faith Fest	9:20am
	Fun Faith Fest	11:45am
8/17	Youth event at the Bohnsacks	6:00pm





SUMMER YOUTH Event for 6th-12th graders

Wednesday, August 17th 6—10:30 pm at the Bohnsacks

Bring a friend!
Watch for details in Reflections

National Youth Gathering 2022 was a success!!!!!



NYG Presentation Prep

Friday, July 29th 7:00 pm—9:00 pm

NYG Presentation

Sunday, July 31th 9:20 am, Fellowship Hall

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)
Morgan Garrett, 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)
Laurel Sellers, Consultant consultant@ourredeemer.org	319-331-3242 (cell)	Kevin Sellers Director of Technology technology@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church) 631-8924 (cell)
		Sheena White, Preschool Assistant preschoolassistant@ourredeemer.org	338-3949 (preschool)

2022 Board of Elders			2022 Board of Direc	etors
Bill Benson David Bohnsack Tim Eick Rick Gienapp Ryan Haack Skip Kempnich Eric Kooker Chad Pence (Chair) Art Schwarting	517-881-9848 319-430-2054 248-514-2881 319-331-7425 319-325-7915 319-351-5297 319-339-0175 319-321-5686 319-325-6152	President Vice President Secretary Treasurer Board of Elders Properties At Large	Arlan Thompson Ben Weis Barb Schanbacher Kari Kibby David Bohnsack Dave Yansky Jeff Kucera Marilyn Albright Vacancy	319-338-2938 319-936-6850 319-351-3998 319-573-4127 319-430-2054 319-621-7694 563-316-1088 319-430-8129

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^{th} 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.

