

The Parish Beacon

Volume 45—No. 11

December 2024

Dear Christian Friends:

A new church-year is upon us. The 27 long weeks of green have finally come to an end, and we can now pull out the beautiful blue colors as we reflect upon the season of Advent. Because of this, it is only fitting that we take a moment to understand the way our church year is broken up. It is rather simple, yet intentional and has been practiced for thousands of years.

Semester Domini: In Latin, “Semester” literally means 6 months. Thus, the “Semester Domini” is 6 months of The Lord (Domini), which is the focus of the first 6 months of the church year. It begins in Advent and ends with Christ’s Ascension. This, of course, is not to say that the entire church year doesn’t center around Christ; however, the holidays and seasons of these 6 months focus on the life of Christ. They begin with the Advent (anticipation), to the 12-day celebration of His birth (starting.. not ending... on December 25th). Then we move into Epiphany and the Transfiguration. Lent is next, as we reflect upon Christ’s ministry and His path to the cross. After this we proceed to the season of Easter which culminates in Ascension Day, which is typically celebrated on the Seventh (and last) Sunday of Easter.

Semester Ecclesia: The celebration of Pentecost begins the next 6 months of the church year, which is literally “6 months of the Church (Ecclesia)”. During this time, our lectionary takes us through a few of the epistles from cover-to-cover and emphasizes what it looks like to live as the church. During this time, we also get to enjoy a few breaks from the green paraments when we celebrate Reformation Day and All Saint’s Day. Compare these two holidays to those found during the Semester Domini. Notice how they are focused on the lives of Christians (i.e. the church) rather than events from the life of Christ.

As Pastor Hartwig regularly discusses, it is essential that we know what we are doing and why we are doing it. The Church year is a very thoroughly planned out structure that has been in place for thousands of years. This intentionality allows us to receive the full council of Christ’s Body (that is the church) and grow and learn together as His people.

It is my prayer that, as you enter into this time of reflection, you enjoy the beauty and excitement that comes along with the Christmas season. What a blessing it is to live in a time where we can so joyfully and publicly announce God’s greatest gift to the world, His Son, who brings with Him forgiveness of sins, salvation, and life everlasting. Remember, although the sun may be absent for most of the month of December, the Son is certainly present with us as we celebrate His birth! May His peace be upon you in this season.

In the love of Christ,
Vicar Simmons



OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

2301 East Court Street Iowa City, IA 52245

Phone: 319-338-5626

Email: redeemer@ourredeemer.org

www.ourredeemer.org

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

O Almighty God, merciful Father, in this present life of sin and suffering Your Holy Church longs for the return of Christ. Give us grace to make a good confession and strength to stand firm in the faith, ever watchful for His coming in power and glory. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Almighty God, merciful Father, give grace to Your Holy Church throughout the world, that she may serve You with reverence and awe and endure faithful to the end. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Almighty God, merciful Father, all we have received comes from Your hand, help us to be good stewards of Your resources. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Almighty God, merciful Father, in humility Your only-begotten Son stood before governors and kings and was accused unjustly for our sake. Defend the cause of the weak and those who have no voice in our society, particularly the unborn, the poor and the homeless. Give the government of our nation the fortitude to serve its citizens and strive for fairness and justice. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Almighty God, merciful Father, raise up among us those who will continue to serve as pastors and teachers, deaconesses and other workers in Your Church, that Your Word may have free course among us and be our joy. We especially pray for the seminarians we are supporting: **Seminarian Nathaniel Pekari** (1st Year), **Seminarian Josiah Coblentz** (2nd Year), **Vicar Tyler Simmons** (3rd Year), and **Seminarian Ethan Boester** (4th Year). Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Almighty God, merciful Father, with all creation we look in eager expectation toward our final redemption at the revelation of Your Son. Until that day, sustain those who live under the cross. Give them patience and hope, and grant healing and aid to the sick [*especially Arlene Boots, Dorothy Blume (Carol Schuldt's sister), Loren Deetz, Linda Diggelmann, Kathy Eick, Chuck Enokian, John Enokian (brother of Chuck Enokian), Gabe Hundley (grandson of Karen Abernathy), Dora Jacobson (granddaughter of George and Carol Schuldt), Sonja Jacobson (daughter of George and Carol Schuldt), Todd Jones (Barb & Ron Jones' son), Ben Malcom (father of Tiffany Roiseland), Terry McBride (brother of Curt McBride), Norma Miller (Twyla Freeman's aunt), Merri Mullane, Julie Pratt-Mullenkamp (Cousin of Ruth Varney), Delores Nace (sister of Doris Siemer), Erin Nielsen (cousin of Crissy Pence), Marcia Osborn, Lucas Schildknecht (friend of the Hartwigs), Lee Schwarting (Art Schwarting's mother), Carol Schuldt, Marlene Thompson, Connie Ullrich (Jeff Kucera's aunt), Natalie Ullrich (Jeff Kucera's cousin), Reece Ullerich, Karen Warner, Mark Wilson, and Beth Wu and all who have asked for our prayers*]. Draw near to the dying. Hold them in the arms of Your love, and defend them against the final assaults of the evil one. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Almighty God, You instituted marriage between one man and one woman. We give You thanks for the 40 years of marriage You have granted **Vaughn and Cheryll Davisson**. Bless them and all husbands and wives as you strengthen the love between them and their love for you. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Almighty God, merciful Father, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Receive our thanks and praise for all those who have died in the faith, and bring us with them to share in the splendors of the new heavens and the new earth. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Almighty God, merciful Father, hear our silent prayers as we cry out to You.

[*silent prayers*]

All these things and whatever else you know that we need, grant us, Father, for you have made us your chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation belonging to you, through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen, Amen, Amen!**

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Sun 11/24 Worship Service 8:00am
 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 9:20am
 Worship Service 10:30
 The Chosen 6:00pm

Mon 11/25 Staff Meeting 1:00pm
 Chamber Singers 6:00pm
 Sunlight AA Group 6:00pm

Tues 11/26 Women's Bible Study 10:00am
 SM-Small Group/Marlene 6:00pm
 Grief Share 7:00pm
 Al-Anon 7:00pm

Wed 11/27 Emerson Point 2:00pm
 Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm
 Thanksgiving Eve Service 7:00pm

Thurs 11/28 Al-Anon 7:30pm
 OFFICE CLOSED—THANKSGIVING

Fri 11/29 **OFFICE CLOSED—THANKSGIVING**

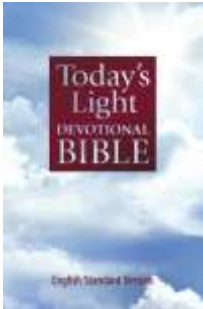
Sat 11/30 Worship Service 5:30pm

Sun 11/1 Worship Service 8:00am
 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 9:20am
 Worship Service 10:30
 Deck the Halls 1:00pm

THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS

Week 48

- 11/25/24 Psalm 119:1-176
- 11/26/24 Psalm 120:1-125:5
- 11/27/24 Psalm 126:1-134:3
- 11/28/24 Psalm 135:1-137:9
- 11/29/24 Psalm 138:-143:12
- 11/30/24 Psalm 144:1-150:6



FLOWERS TODAY

Today's flowers (November 25) for the altar are provided by Vaughn and Cheryl Davisson, to give thanks to God for 40 years of marriage.

Sunday Coffee & Treats (November 24)

This Sunday's coffee and treats are being provided by Cheryl Davisson and Brooke Robinson. Come join us for a little refreshment and fellowship before Sunday School and Adult Bible Class. Free will offering goes towards LCMS World Relief and Human Care organization



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: November 30,
December 1, 21, 22, 24, 28, 29

Sunday School 9:20am—In Person
Adult Bible Study 9:20am—Fellowship Hall/ZOOM
Bible Study/Lunch Bunch meets on the 1st & 3rd
Wednesday of each month at 11:00am with lunch
following.

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



Baptism

Flint Turner Watkinson
Son of
Turner & Erica Watkinson
Sunday, November 24—8:00am
Andrew & Brooke Robinson

UPCOMING EVENTS



**THANKSGIVING
OFFICE CLOSED
NOVEMBER 28/29**



**December 4
Bible Class 11:00am
Lunch 12:00pm
Fellowship Hall**

**ADVENT MEALS
Wednesday
December 4, 11, 18
5:10pm
Fellowship Hall**



**LWML COOKIE WALK
December 5/6 Prep
December 7, 9:00am—11:00am
Fellowship Hall**



**CHRISTMAS & COOKIES
December 8, 11:45am
Fellowship Hall**



**SOUP & SANDWICH LUNCH
December 15, 11:45am
Fellowship Hall**



**LIVE NATIVITY
December 15
4:00pm—6:00pm**



**December 18
Bible Class 11:00am
Lunch 12:00pm
Fellowship Hall**

**School Closed—ICCS
December 23—January 3**

**OFFICE CLOSED
CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY
DECEMBER 24/25**



**Cruise—Mexican Riviera
December 28—January 4**

**OFFICE CLOSED
NEW YEAR'S DAY
JANUARY 1**

2024 Advent/Christmas/ New Year Schedule

December 4	1:00pm 5:10pm 6:00pm/6:10pm	Advent Service Advent Meal Sing a-long/Advent Service
December 7	9:00am 9:00-12:00pm 5:30pm	LWML Cookie Walk Children's Service Practice Service of Christmas & Carols
December 8	8:00am & 10:30am 12:00pm	Service of Christmas & Carols Christmas & Cookies
December 11	1:00pm 5:10pm 6:00pm/6:10pm	Advent Service Advent Meal Sing a-long/Advent Service
December 14	9:00am-12:00pm 5:30pm	Children's Service Practice Worship Service
December 15	8:00am & 10:30am 11:45am 4:00-6:00pm	Children's Christmas Service Christmas Lunch Live Nativity
December 16	6:00pm	Christmas Meeting LWML
December 18	1:00pm 5:10pm 6:00pm/6:10pm	Advent Service Advent Meal Sing a-long/Advent Service
December 21	5:30pm	Communion Service
December 22**	8:00am & 10:30am	Communion Services
December 24	4:30pm 6:30pm & 11:30pm	Christmas Eve Family Worship Christmas Eve Comm Worship
December 25*	9:30am	Christmas Day Comm Worship
December 28	5:30pm	Communion Worship
December 29**	8:00am & 10:30am	Communion Worship
December 31	6:30pm	New Year's Eve Comm Worship

**No Midweek Classes December 25 or January 1*

***No Sunday School or Adult Bible Class
December 22 & 29*

Birthdays

November 24	Ryan Jackson, Jim Tiedemann, Ruth Varney
November 25	Kyla Cahoon, Richard Kubit, Brittany Palmer
November 26	Lloyd Broberg
November 27	Nancy Doehrmann, Christa Sexton
November 28	Rob Ghabel, Geneva Hein, Max Obermueller, Donna Reddel, Gary Yoder
November 29	Brice Bernhard, Marek Ghabel, Anne Hinkle, Seth Penney, Sandra Sanders, Maureen Schultz, Harold Warner
November 30	James Siems, Jay Wefel

Stewardship—November 16/17, 2024

ATTENDANCE		TREASURES	
Sat. 11/16 In Person 5:30pm	63	Contributions	\$24,804
Sun. 11/17 In Person 8:00am	122	Monthly needs for budget	\$66,114.00
Sun. 11/17 In Person 10:30am	162		
TOTAL WEEKEND WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	347	Adult Bible Class/Sunday School	68/55



MISSION	October
Iowa District East	\$3,333.33
UIHC Chaplain Endowment Fund	\$208.33
TOTAL	\$3,541.66
Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca	\$250.00
Lutheran Family Services	\$125.00
Orphan Grain Train	\$125.00
MONTH TOTAL	\$4,041.66
Crisis Center	***
Lutherans for Life	***
Concordia Seminary Food Bank	\$100.00
TOTAL	\$4,141.66

Membership Changes and Official Acts

<u>Baptisms</u>	
Mae Eloise Carlson	11-17-2024
Jacob Logan Marks	11-17-2024
Flint Turner Watkinson	11-24-2024
<u>Transferred In</u>	
Marvin Muhlenbruck	10-31-2024
Debra Grolman	10-31-2024
Raymond & Myra Forman	11-05-2024
<u>Deaths</u>	
Bruce Thompson	11-13-2024

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Board of Director Minutes
November 14, 2024 ~ 7:00pm

Absent: Kari Kibby

Present: Ben Weis, Jeff Kucera, Barb Pronk, Bill Benson, Dave Yansky, Mary Robinson, Marilyn Albright, Steve Scott

Staff: Pastor Hartwig, Vicar Simmons

1. Call to Order, Welcome
2. Opening Devotion—Pastor Hartwig
3. Constitution Review—Article VII/Board of Directors
 - Section 1. General Powers and Responsibilities
 - Section 2. Limited Powers
 - Section 3. Membership
 - Section 4. Regular Meetings
 - Section 5. Special Meetings
 - Section 6. Quorum
 - Section 7. Manner of Acting
 - Section 8. Presumption of Assent
 - Section 9. Informal Action
 - Section 10. Parliamentary Procedures
4. Minutes were approved from last meeting.
5. Treasurer's Report—Kari Kibby
 - Debt Balance
 - Hill Bank--512 South 1st Avenue—Current Balance \$132,398.32
 - LCEF Building Loan—Current Balance \$214,928.60
6. Elder's Report—Bill Benson
 - Dave Bohnsack and Ryan Haack are leaving the Board. A thank you for their service.
 - Two new members joining the Board are Chad Waring and Kevin Roiseland.
 - Vicar Simmons shared a new program called GriefShare.
 - New members of our church are being paired with Elders.
7. At Large Reports—
 - Mary Robinson (Outreach, Missions, Small Groups)
 - Angel Tree will be starting after Thanksgiving.
 - Marilyn Albright
 - New member welcome was well attended as well as the Prime Time Dinner held November 3rd.
 - Steve Scott (Children, Preschool, Youth)
 - Youth will help this weekend with all three services.
 - Youth Pie Sale is Saturday, November 16th.
8. Church Properties—Dave Yansky
 - Received an \$1800 bid to repair sidewalks and removal of concrete.
 - Failed boiler #2 inspection which will be remediated.
 - Fascia was repaired on the Parsonage.
 - Looking into purchasing a battery powered leaf vacuum.
 - Lighting project is completed. City was very happy with the results.

9. Staff Reports—

Pastor

- 40 households participated in the Chosen World Vision Event.
- Discussed effort that has been put forth the last 5 to 6 years with the Mission Committee to create a bigger plan. (UKANDU, FORO in Panama)

Vicar

- Shared GriefShare Program for people who have lost loved ones. 13-week session.
- Staff meeting moved to the 9th of February from the 16th. Approved by the Board.
- February Board of Directors meeting will meet February 6th.
- Board of Elders meeting will meet February 13th.

Kaja (Preschool)

- Video promoting Our Redeemer Preschool is progressing.

Denise (Adult)

- N/A

Kara (Youth)

- Youth will be helping with all three services this weekend.
- Pie Sale is Saturday, November 16th.

10. Discussion Items

- 2025 Budget—insurance costs increased by \$2,500.
- Motion to approve the insurance increase in our 2025 budget.
- Motion to approve a stipend for Brock, a summer intern with our church.
- Motion to approve a promotional video fund for our preschool and a stipend for Vicar Simmons for his work on the video.
- Jeff Kucera met with the architect and engineer to discuss our new front entrance to the church.

11. Kudos

- Financial Review Committee: (Bob Hansen, Dave Hintze, Gary McIlrath) Grateful for the work they do.
- Mission Trip Members who wen to Panama for the Eye Glass Clinic (Brent, Kara, Micah, Ken Hartwig, Denise & Myrl Holida, Carol Holman, Marilyn & Skip Kempnich, Anita & Jeff Nicholson, Marilyn Paetz, Rhonda Waters, Michelle Wenndt)
- Thank you to the LED lighting team for all their work. (Dave Yansky, John Robinson, Steve Scott, Micah Hartwig)

12. Next Meeting

Christmas Gathering—Board of Directors—December 5th, 6:30pm

13. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Pronk Secretary

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Voter's Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2024

1. Call to Order—Ben Weis
2. Opening Prayer—Pastor Hartwig
3. Treasurer's Report—Kari Kibby
 - Review of proposed budget for 2025.
 - 2024 budget is on target.
 - 2025 proposed budget is 3.6% over last year's budget.

Motion to approve 2025 budget was unanimously approved by the voters.

4. Closing Prayer—Pastor Hartwig
5. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Pronk, Secretary

Attendees:

Jeff Kucera

Ben Weis

Barb Pronk

Kari Kibby

Marilyn Albright

Mary Robinson

Dave Yansky

Bill Benson

Steve Scott

Rob Bowman

Diana Bowman

Henry W. Diggelmann

Vaughn Davisson

Cheryll Davisson

Charles Enokian

Gwen Enokian

John Robinson

Donna Saehler

Arlan Thompson

Marlene Thompson

Barb Gienapp

Rick Gienapp

Denise Johnson

Julie Nieland

Harold Kempnich

Marilyn Kempnich

Diane Burke

Martin Wenck

Charma Wenck

Tom Pronk

Dave Hintze

Sharon Hintze

Linda Brachtel

Diane Amundson

Staff

Pastor Hartwig

Vicar Simmons

Kaja Mueller

Lorrie Bailey

Kevin Sellers

Laurel Sellers

Marilyn Paetz



Hey everyone!!!!!!!!!! Christmas & Cookies

Sunday, December 8, 2024 ~ 11:45 am

Members of Our Redeemer and friends gather together for food, fun, and fellowship. We will enjoy pizza and a short devotion. The main activity will be decorating Christmas cookies to give away as well as take some home. A short Christmas movie will be shown during lunch. God's Word will be shared before the evening is done. Please invite your friends to join us!

Please sign up at the Welcome Counter so that we know how many cookies to get!

Building Healthy Families:



Reflect for a moment on your life over the past year. How have you seen God working? For what are you most thankful? As you become aware of His many blessings, ask yourself this one final question: how do you plan to show your gratitude? Challenge the members of your family to explore these same questions over the Thanksgiving holiday. Remember, we model gratitude to our children by our own words and behavior, regardless of how the year is going.

*"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."
1 Thessalonians 5:18*

Lutheran Family Service www.LutheranFamilyService.org

Are you thinking COOKIES yet?



The **31th Annual LWML Guild Cookie Walk** will be **Saturday, December 7th, 9:00 am to 11:00.**

Please start pulling out your cookbooks or visiting your favorite recipe websites for the cookies you will bake. We would appreciate donations of as many cookies as possible! Workers will be needed on Friday, December 6th and/or Saturday, December 7th. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex. Posters are available for your office bulletin board or where you shop.

Proceeds from the Cookie Walk will be given to missions. Thank you for your help!



Submitted by Marcia Hulse

Stephen Ministry

We care, Christ cures.

Stephen Minister Training Is an Enjoyable, Transformative Experience

Stephen Minister training is an enriching, enjoyable, and spiritual experience. The purpose of the training is to equip individuals to become Stephen Ministers with essential caring and relating skills to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christian care to individuals who are hurting. The training features a wide variety of teaching methods—presentations, discussions, videos, hands-on activities, and more—that engage trainees in applying, practicing, and using a range of principles and skills. Trainees also grow in their own individual Christian knowledge and in serving the Lord by caring for others.

If you have thought about becoming a Stephen Minister and would like to know more, you might want to attend an Informational Session **“Do You Want To Be A Stephen Minister” on Sunday, December 8, at noon immediately following the 10:30 Divine Service in Room 208/210. All are invited to attend.**

We are currently recruiting for our 2025 session starting on February 18. Taking the class *does not* commit you to becoming a commissioned Stephen Minister, but it will help you decide if God is leading you to take the challenge. Even if you don't become a commissioned Stephen Minister you will be a blessing to others by what you have learned.

Applications are available on the Welcome Center counter. We would like for your application to be turned into Pastor Hartwig sometime before December 15. The application is a formality that will help Pastor know how God is leading you.

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comfort us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God” 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

STEPHEN MINISTRY LEADERS	
Pastor Hartwig	338-5626
Bill Benson	517-881-9848
Marcia Hulse	351-7059
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.

LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICE



Please help to provide HOPE for those
experiencing difficult times.

<https://lutheranfamilyservice.org/>

LFS Provides



Pregnancy Help



Adoption
Services



Marriage
Counseling



Mental Health
Counseling



Outreach

Mission Committee Members

Denise Holida / Anita Nicholson / Val Penney / Bob Powers / Lynn Smith (Chair)



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church would like to take the time to welcome new members John and Sue Mentink. They came to Kalona, Iowa from Parkersburg, West Virginia to be closer to family, especially their grandson.

They are both retired but lead very active lives. They are both in the church choir and have hobbies such as stain glass work and volunteer work. Both of them are members of the Bible Study Fellowship (an international organization) and Sue has taught in this capacity for 20 years.

Children's Christmas Worship Gift Bag Donations, Snack, and Lunch Sign-ups



We are seeking donation of items to fill the gift bags for the Sunday School children. Donations of cutie oranges and apples would be appreciated. The sign-up sheet is located on the Welcome Counter in the Narthex or call the office during regular business hours. Donations need to arrive to church by Saturday, December 14, 9:00am.

**We currently have sign-up/donation sheets out on the
Welcome Counter for those who would like to help out .**



CHRISTMAS CARDS ARE NEEDED AGAIN!!!

Because we had such a great response last year, the Outreach Committee is again going to collect Christmas cards to share the Good News of Jesus' birth for residents of local senior and assisted living residents. Last year we had many people donate unsigned cards so this year the process will change a little bit. We are asking that you take a group of cards and sign your first name and include "from Our Redeemer Lutheran Church" and place the card in the envelope **but do not seal it**. We will be adding a Church stamp to the inside of the card.

Both the unsigned cards and the collection box for signed cards are on a table in the Narthex.

Please have your signed cards to the church by Sunday, December 8th. If you have questions please contact Donna Saehler at 319-321-3207 or Judy Schwartz at 563-650-6610.



Big Thank you to Henry Diggelmann and Dave Freundt for cleaning up all the leaves around the church.

Brenda Johnson supervised





Tis the Season for Giving!

Warm hands = warm hearts. Living in Iowa we all know bitter cold winter weather is right around the corner. Many of the local children are missing a basic comfort that we often take for granted, warmth. So many students walk to school and/or are unable to participate in daily outdoor recess at school with parents that cannot provide mittens, boots, or gear to keep them warm. Many of these children are the same families serviced by the area shelters and very much in need. The Human Care Committee is currently collecting the following items **beginning December 1st until January 2nd** and would really appreciate your help with a donation.

They are seeking new or gently used:

- Snow Pants
- Hats
- Boots
- Mittens
- Scarves

Any donations can be left at the Mitten Tree which will be located near the Welcome Counter. On January 2nd the Human Care Committee will gather the items for delivery to the Iowa City School District Administration Office for distribution to children in need when classes resume.

Please feel free to direct any questions to Tracy Nelson, Human Care Committee Chair, at: tracy-nelson@uiowa.edu.

Thank you in advance for your kindness!



The angels are coming!!



This year you will again have the opportunity to be a blessing to those less fortunate through Angel Tree, a program offered through Prison Fellowship in which children of prisoners are given Christmas gifts on behalf of the parent who is unable to do so while incarcerated.

Angels will be available for selection before and after services beginning with **Thanksgiving Eve and each Advent and weekend service through Wednesday, December 11.** When you select an angel (or angels), you will be asked to sign out the angel with your name and phone number.

All gifts need to be wrapped and returned to church by Sunday, December 15 in order to process and deliver them before Christmas. You will receive written instructions when you select an angel. Thank you for helping create a pathway to reconciliation between incarcerated parents and their children at this special time of the year.



Dear Lord,
Bless the
children.
Amen.



PRISON FELLOWSHIP ACADEMY™

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (John 3:17)

God certainly knows our sin, and as a just God, He has every reason to give us the justice we deserve – death/hell/damnation; yet amazingly when Jesus came into the world, He came not to **condemn** people, but to **save** people from that punishment that we all deserve - by taking that punishment on Himself. What great news!

Are YOU interested in sharing the message of Christ's love and forgiveness with those in prison?

Prison Fellowship Academy brings volunteers from churches in the community together with those in prison to engage with each other on a journey to change lives through the Gospel message. In this year long curriculum, participants explore their true identity, examine faulty thinking, form new goals, look at the factors that shaped them, and consider their new life as redeemed sons and daughters of God. PFA replaces criminal thinking and behaviors with renewed purpose and Biblically based life principles.

Volunteer opportunities are currently available:

Anamosa State Penitentiary (Wednesdays 5-7PM / Saturdays 9-11AM)

Iowa Medical Classification Center –Coralville (Wednesdays and Fridays 1-2:30PM)

Training and curriculum are provided...New volunteers are always welcome, even if you can only come occasionally!

Please contact Carol Holman for more information.

carol-holman@uiowa.edu



ORLC Trivia Challenge 2024



The winning of the final Trivia Challenge for 2024 is
"The COSTCO Guys"
Congratulations!



80 people attended. First time ever the high school team won and first time to have to use the tie breaker question to determine the winning team.



Trunk or Treat

Thank you to everyone who hosted a trunk! Half of the treaters are from the community so we appreciate your time and hospitality.



October 27

**45 Trunks
140 Treaters**





Youth Worship Weekend

November 16th—17th, 2024



A huge thank you to Skip & Marilyn Kempnich, Chris Schwarz, and Kevin & Laurel Sellers for helping us with music and sound!

Our High School Youth acted in the "You're Hired" skit during our Youth Worship service!



The Boss



The secretary



Micah on drums



All who apply have already been chosen. No experience necessary.

Confirmation students served as acolytes, greeters, ushers, and camera operators on Youth Worship weekend.



"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit— fruit that will last— and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you." John 15:16



for supporting our
YOUTH PIE SALE!



**Thank you to everyone
who helped make pies,
bought pies and donated
fruit!!**



Preschool Beacon



Director/Teacher, Kaja Mueller Assistants, Christie Cherian 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



SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

"God Redeems His People"

Toddlin' age—12th Grade

9:20 a.m. — 10:15 a.m.

Invite your friends and come learn about Jesus!

Date	Scripture	Bible Lesson
November 24	Ezekiel 8:10-11; 36:1-15	Abomination Nation—The Lord Leaves the Temple
December 1	<i>Thanksgiving Weekend—No Classes</i>	
December 8	Book of Esther	The Rescuing Queen—Esther
December 15	Ezra 3:1-11; Nehemiah 3	Return to Rebuild—Rebuilding the Temple
December 22	Christmas & New Year Weekends—No Classes	
December 29		



Wednesday, November 27

No Kid's Club

Thanksgiving holiday.

See you on Wednesday, December 4

Advent Meal at 5:10pm in the Fellowship Hall

Sing a-long/Advent Service 6:00pm

Kid's Club activities 6:45pm

Toddlin' to Jesus

Room 215

(Toddlin' Room)

**Join us at 9:20 am
on Sunday mornings.**



Parents and their children ages birth to age 2 are invited to participate. You will meet with other parents and children for a toddler-friendly Bible lesson, music and prayer.

It's a casual and relaxed environment balanced with activities and playtime.



Youth



6th - 12th Graders

December

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
4	Advent Meal Sing-along / Advent Worship Midweek Classes	5:10pm 6:00pm 6:45pm
7	Children's Christmas Dress Rehearsal	9:00am
8	Christmas & Cookies	11:45am
11	Advent Meal <i>(6th Grade Families Meal Crew)</i> Advent Worship Midweek Classes	5:10pm 6:10pm 6:45pm
14	Children's Christmas Dress Rehearsal	9:00am
15	Children's Christmas Services <i>(during worship services)</i> Soup & Sandwich Lunch Live Nativity	8:00am 10:30am 12:00pm 4:00pm
18	 Advent Meal Advent Worship Midweek Classes <i>Kids Club Jesus' Birthday Party</i>	5:10pm 6:10pm 6:45pm 6:45pm
24	Christmas Eve Family Worship Christmas Eve Communion Christmas Eve Communion	4:30pm 6:30pm 11:30pm
12/25	Christmas Day Communion <i>Our savior IS BORN!</i>	9:30am
12/31	New Years Eve Worship	6:30pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, December 7th

DRESS REHEARSAL

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS

K—8th Graders

9:00am—11:00am

Wednesday, December 11th

ADVENT MEAL

6th Grade Youth & Families are the crew

5:10pm—6:00pm

Saturday, December 14th

DRESS REHEARSAL

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS

K—8th Graders

9:00am—11:00am

Sunday, December 15th

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

K—8th Graders

8:00am AND 10:30am

SOUP & SANDWICH LUNCH

11:45am

LIVE NATIVITY

High School Youth

3:00pm—6:30pm

Tuesday, December 24th

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

4:30pm, 6:30pm and 11:30pm

Wednesday, December 25th

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP @ 9:30am

LIVE NATIVITY

High School Youth

Sunday, December 15th

3:00 pm until 6:30 pm

Please mark your calendars to be here for this annual Youth event that shares the Good News of Jesus' birth with our community.



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>
Rev. Dr. 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)
Tyler Simmons, 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)
Laurel Sellers, Consultant consultant@ourredeemer.org	319-331-3242 (cell)	Kevin Sellers Director of Technology technology@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church) 631-8924 (cell)
		Christie Cherian, Preschool Assistant preschoolassistant@ourredeemer.org	338-3949 (preschool)

2024 Board of Elders

Bill Benson (chair)	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
Brad Mullane	319-936-5826
Chad Pence	319-321-5686
Art Schwarting	319-325-6152

2024 Board of Directors

President	Ben Weis	319-936-6850
Vice President	Jeff Kucera	563-316-1088
Secretary	Barb Pronk	641-425-4880
Treasurer	Kari Kibby	319-573-4127
Board of Elders	Chad Pence	319-321-5686
Properties	Dave Yansky	319-621-7694
At Large	Mary Robinson	319-400-5572
	Marilyn Albright	319-430-8129
	Steve Scott	563-889-0990

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.

A Savior is Born!

Luke 2:15-17

Let the news ring!
Now let us sing
Alleluias to our King!
Shepherds came and angels sang!
Through the night their anthems rang!
Jesus, our Savior is born!
Jesus, our Savior is born!

Thank God on high!
Bow with Magi!
Offer our love, you and I.
He has come to take our sin!
Over Satan He shall win!
Our Father has sent His Son!
Our Father has sent His Son!

Give God glory!
Tell the story!
This news was needed, sorely!
Follow Christ throughout your days!
Give Him thanks; give Him all praise!
Our Redeemer King has come!
Our Redeemer King has come!

Carol Scholdt

