



The Parish Beacon

Volume 46—No. 1

January 2025

Dear Christian friends:

Happy new you! Yes, Art Linkletter, kids do say the darndest things. After listening to a few Christmas songs, Micah (age 2) began saying, “Happy new you!”

We deduced he meant “Happy new year!” But he got something right.

One author wrote:

The beginning of every year brings in new hope and enthusiasm. We look forward to a new beginning and hope things to improve from the last year. We like to forget about our pasts and its daunting memories and wish for a new start. Hence, New Year is celebrated with pomp and joy by every race around the world.

And Benjamin Franklin said:

Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each New Year find you a better man.

There is something about the New Year’s holiday where we focus on improving ourselves.

A 41 billion dollar industry can prove it. Happy New You!

We look to books and videos and seminars.

We look to motivational speakers and mentors and personal coaches.

Each New Year’s Eve we look forward to the new year with a gleam of self-improvement.

Weight loss, stop smoking, exercising...

Financial management, time management, stress management...

All the while, Sunday during the divine service the dream of your heart and the gleam of your eye is obtained.

In the stead and by the command of my Lord, Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Happy New You! For you see, in that very moment you are new.

You don’t need to read books or watch videos or attend seminars.

You don’t need to listen to motivational speakers or find a mentor or hire a personal coach.

Christ forgives you and you are instantly new!

So as the clock strikes midnight and the new year begins, make your resolution.

Then become a new you and confess your sins!

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

Maybe we should celebrate with pomp and joy and the excitement of the New Year’s countdown the next time we have Confession and Absolution.

Merry Christmas and Happy New You! Pastor Hartwig



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.

Gracious Father, grant Your blessing to the whole Church on earth, that Christ's people may set their hearts and minds on the things above and be clothed with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Father, bind our families together in perfect harmony and rule our hearts with the peace of Christ. Cause His Word to dwell richly among us, and let fathers and heads of the household teach and admonish their families in all wisdom. Let our songs, words and deeds be done in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, with thanksgiving. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Father, You wounded Your own Son to bring us the eternal healing of Your love. Bless all who suffer wounds of body and soul [*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), 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), Brian Soldner (friend of Carol Holman), 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 those we name before You in our hearts]. Grant them healing according to Your will, and sustain them unto the day of the resurrection of all flesh. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Father, as blessed Mary treasured all things in her heart, grant us to know what is worthy of our attention and what will pass away, that approaching the table of our Lord we may be well-prepared to receive with repentance and faith His flesh for the life of the world and His blood that cleanses us from all our sin. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Father, O Lord of hosts. 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 12/29 Worship Service 8:00am
 Worship Service 10:30

Mon 12/30 Chamber Singers 6:00pm
 Sunlight AA Group 6:00pm

Tues 12/31 Inter AA New Year Gathering 4:00pm
 New Year's Eve Worship Service 6:30pm
 Al-Anon 7:00pm

Wed 01/01 **OFFICE CLOSED—HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Thurs 01/02 Visitation Meeting 6:30pm
 Board of Elders 7:00pm
 Al-Anon 7:30pm

Fri 01/03 ***

Sat 01/04 Worship Service 5:30pm

Sun 01/05 Worship Service 8:00am
 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 9:20am
 Worship Service 10:30
 Deck the Halls 1:00pm

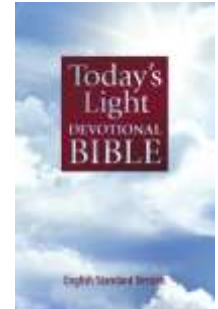


Building Healthy Families: Here's a novel idea for making a New Year's Resolution this year: *don't make it about you!* What if instead of losing ten pounds, you resolved to spend unscheduled time every Sunday afternoon with your children? What if instead of getting up early to go to the gym, you resolved to read to a nursing home resident who has no family or visitors every Tuesday morning? What if instead...you get the idea. Look around; ask God to open your eyes. Who has He put in your life who needs the gift of your time and attention? Resolve to give it! Happy and Blessed New Year from your friends at Lutheran Family Service! **Lutheran Family Service -**
www.LutheranFamilyService.org

THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS

Week 53

12/30/24 Song of Solomon 4:1-6:13
 12/31/24 Song of Solomon 7:1-8:14
 01/01/25 Isaiah 1:1-2:22
 01/02/25 Isaiah 3:1-4:6
 01/03/25 Isaiah 5:1-30
 01/04/25 Isaiah 6:1-13



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: January 4, 5, 18, 19
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

UPCOMING EVENTS



Cruise—Mexican Riviera
December 28—January 4

MIDWEEK MEAL
Wednesday
January 8
6:00pm
Fellowship Hall



Confirmation Retreat Meeting
Wednesday, January 8
8:00pm Parent must attend



High School Epiphany Party
Wednesday, January 8
6:45pm



Sunday
January 12
1:00pm



January 15
Bible Class 11:00am
Lunch 12:00pm
Fellowship Hall

School Closed—ICCS
January 20



January 20
OFFICE CLOSED



Confirmation Retreat
January 31—February 1
Ask Kara for details

Birthdays

December 29	Michelle Hintze, Kevin lake, Jim Thurston
December 30	Dylan Feuerbach, Jennifer Waddilove, David Yanksy
December 31	Dexter Anderson, Briana Ervin, Justin Ervin, Brian McKillip, Cory Sexton
January 1	Laura Anderson, Ella Born, Jessica Morrison
January 2	Kayla Brooks, Susan Funk, Mary Norland, Ronald Schwarting
January 3	Mary Jane Ervin, Marlyce Hollis, Beverly Prem
January 4	Bradley Lake, Justin Pitts, Tralene Thompson

Stewardship—December 21/22, 2024

ATTENDANCE		TREASURES	
Sat. 12/21 In Person 5:30pm	47	Contributions	\$40,021.61
Sun. 12/22 In Person 8:00am	55	Monthly needs for budget	\$66,114.00
Sun. 12/22 In Person 10:30am	145	Advent Services (December 18)	138
TOTAL WEEKEND WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	247	Adult Bible Class/Sunday School	No Classes held



MISSION	December
Iowa District East	\$3,333.33
UIHC Chaplain Endowment Fund	\$208.33
TOTAL	\$3,541.66
Common Fund (CommUnity)	\$125.00
Lutheran Hour	\$125.00
St. Paul Chapel	\$375.00
MONTH TOTAL	\$4,166.66
Crisis Center	\$100.00
Lutherans for Life	***
Concordia Seminary Food Bank	\$100.00
TOTAL	\$4,366.66

Membership Changes and Official Acts

<u>Affirmation of Faith</u>	
Dan & Anna Holland	12-11-2024
<u>Baptisms</u>	
Walter Mitchell Davis	12-19-2024
<u>Deaths</u>	
Nancy Kay Macek	12-04-2024



Lord,

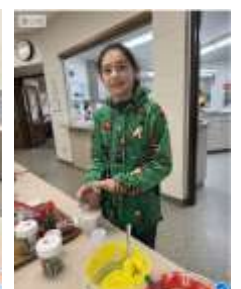
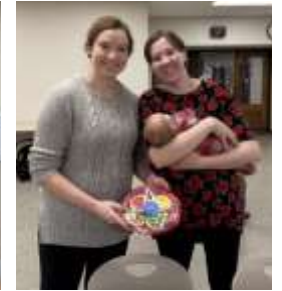
We thank You for coming to Earth at Christmas, and for coming into the lives and hearts of men and women each day. We know You ultimately are the One who provides for our needs, but we also know that You work through us, your called and redeemed children, to provide for the needs of each other. Thank You for all who bought gifts for children of incarcerated men and women through Angel Tree and thank You for all those who helped to deliver those gifts. Be with the Angel Tree families, that they may find their hope in You despite the challenging circumstances that they face. Be with those in prison, especially those participating in Prison Fellowship Academy. Send your Holy Spirit to work in their lives and in their midst, to call, enlighten, sanctify, and keep them in the true faith. May they walk in unwavering faith, trusting in Your goodness even when the path ahead feels long and uncertain. Raise up many in Your church who are willing to witness of Your love to those in prison. Empower us all to see others with Your eyes and to offer kindness where there is hardship. May our lives be a testament to your unending grace and compassion, shining Your light to those around us.....Jesus, You said "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." We pray that You give Your peace and rest to all who are hurting, especially to those in prison and their families, throughout this New Year. Amen.



DECK THE HALLS

The Christmas
garland gang
putting the
garland rack
Away until it is
time to take the
garland down.

Christmas & Cookies



Fellowship
&
Sweet Fun



Live Nativity

December 15



Children's Christmas Service

2024





**KID'S CLUB GINGERBREAD CHURCH BUILD 2024—
What a sweet activity.**

**Product Tester
(Just a little taste)**



GIFTS BY LWML FROM COOKIE WALK FUNDS

Cookie Walk

2024

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch	\$100
Concordia Seminary Food Bank, St. Louis	\$400
Concordia Seminary Food & Clothing Co-op, Ft. Wayne	\$400
IDE Chaplaincy Endowment Fund	\$200
LCMS World Relief	\$200
Lutheran Indian Ministries	\$100
Lutheran Bible Translators	\$100
Lutheran Family Service	\$300
Lutherans for Life	\$100
Shelter House	\$300
Lutheran World Relief	\$100
Orphan Grain Train	\$400
Panama Church	\$500
LERT at "King of Kings"	\$400
Houses to Homes	\$300
TOTAL	\$3,900



December 16

CHRISTMAS
PARTY
BY L W M L





December 7

Cookie Walk



577 dozen cookies

8 pounds fudge



Chair people Brenda Johnson & Donna Saehler



People started waiting in line an hour before



Kitchen Help



Becky West's Solon Cooking Students

brought cookies to sell



Cynthia Freundt, Greeter



Disney comes to the cookie walk

LWML Workers





Submitted by Marcia Hulse

Stephen Ministry

We care, Christ cures.

Are You Experiencing Winter in Your Life

In addition to the cold weather outside, many people experience winters in their personal lives. A recent loss through death, divorce, or relocation may leave them feeling lonely. A hospitalization, a cancer diagnosis, or ongoing medical problems may leave them feeling isolated. The loss of a job, the fear of layoffs, or a financial setback can devastate one's self-esteem. Family and personal struggles may leave them with nowhere to turn for support.

If you are going through a difficult time, our Stephen Ministers can bring God's warm love back into your life. They provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will meet with you privately on a weekly basis to listen, to support and encourage you, to pray with and for you, and to walk with you for the duration of your crisis.

To find out more about Stephen Ministry and how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, talk with one of our Stephen Leaders or Pastor Hartwig. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!

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.

CROWDED CLOSET **LOCAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**



<https://www.crowdedcloset.org/>

Help support Christian missions here & overseas

Matthew 9:37

Then he said to his disciples,
“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.”



Mission Committee Members

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



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!



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!



**He is born!
Merry
Christmas &
Happy New
Year**



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
January 5	Malachi 2-4	Promised Messenger—Waiting for God's Messenger
January 12	Luke 1:26-56	An Angel Announces—Jesus' Birth Foretold
January 19	Luke 1:5-25, 57-67	Silence before a Son—John is Born
January 26	Luke 2:1-40	The Temple Testimonies—Jesus' Birth and Presentation



Kid's Club will resume their
Wednesday activities
January 8 at 6:45pm

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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

January

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	1

DATE	EVENT	TIME
1/8	Midweek Meal	6:00pm
	High School Epiphany Party	6:45pm
	Midweek & Confirmation Classes	
	Winter Retreat Meeting	8:00pm
1/15	Midweek & Confirmation Classes	6:45pm
1/20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day Office Closed	
1/22	Midweek & Confirmation Classes	6:45pm
1/29	Midweek & Confirmation Classes	6:45pm
1/30	Confirmation Retreat	

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

- January 5—Malachi 2-4
Promised Messenger—waiting for God's Messenger
- January 12—Luke 1:26-56
An Angel Announces—Jesus' Birth Foretold
- January 19—Luke 1:5-25, 57-67
Silence before a Son—John is Born
- January 26—Luke 2:1-40
The Temple Testimonies—Jesus' Birth and Presentation

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, January 8th
MIDWEEK MEAL 6:00pm
HIGH SCHOOL EPIPHANY PARTY
& MIDWEEK & CONFIRMATION
CLASSES 6:45pm
WINTER RETREAT MEETING
8:00pm

Wednesday, January 15^h
MIDWEEK & CONFIRMATION
CLASSES
6:45pm

Monday, January 20th
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
OFFICE CLOSED
NO SCHOOL ICCSD

Wednesday, January 22nd
MIDWEEK & CONFIRMATION
CLASSES
6:45pm

Wednesday, January 29^h
MIDWEEK & CONFIRMATION
CLASSES
6:45pm
NO SCHOOL ICCSD

Friday/Saturday, January 31st &
February 1st
CONFIRMATION RETREAT
See Kara for details

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)

2025 Board of Elders

Bill Benson (chair)	517-881-9848
Kevin Roiseland	319-230-5247
Tim Eick	248-514-2881
Rick Gienapp	319-331-7425
Chad Waring	319-331-8303
Skip Kempnich	319-351-5297
Brad Mullane	319-936-5826
Chad Pence	319-321-5686
Art Schwarting	319-325-6152

2025 Board of Directors

President	Ben Weis	319-936-6850
Vice President	Jeff Kucera	563-316-1088
Secretary	Barb Pronk	641-425-4880
Treasurer	Kennedy Donovan	515-230-2057
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.



Putting 'Christmas' Away

Philippians 4: 8

It's time to pack up the lights

And take down the tree
Since it is several days
Since Epiphany—

It's time to put 'Christmas' away.

We need to carefully store
All tinsel and balls
Until next year when Advent
Season comes to call—

It's time to put 'Christmas' away.

Soon comes Lent and then Easter,
On through the church year

**'Til we celebrate and sing
'Bout that "Midnight Clear"—**

We must put 'Christmas' away.

In our hearts we can still save
Wonder of His Love
Throughout our life until we
Reach our home above—

And ne'er put Christmas 'away'!

Carol Schuldt