



The Parish Beacon

Volume 47—No. 4

April 2026

Spring is here and Easter is just around the corner. What a wonderful time of year! As parents of young children, Keely and I have loved getting to experience the changing of seasons through the eyes of our children. Everything is new and special. Soon flowers will begin to bloom and the days will keep getting warmer. Our current joy as a family is bird watching. We've seen the pelicans as they pass through town on their migration and the eagles perched above the Iowa River. The trees are full of songs as the birds fill the air with music.

Winter's grip has finally loosed and spring is here and we get to experience all of these wonderful things. And this time of year draws our focus and attention to one thing, the resurrection of Jesus on that very first Easter. In the spring all of creation reminds you, it tells you, the resurrection is true and new creation is coming. The death of winter is being replaced with the new life of spring and you who were dead is your sin and made new by the resurrection of Jesus. His death is your death and His resurrection is your resurrection!

So this spring let the flowers and the trees and the birds preach the resurrection to you! Let them remind you of the new life Jesus has won for you!

Grace and Peace,
Vicar Andrew Vought

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

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P: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have Mercy**

P: For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have Mercy**

P: For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have Mercy**

P: For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have Mercy**

P: For reasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have Mercy**

P: For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have Mercy**

P: For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have Mercy**

P: For the sick and the dying, and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have Mercy**

P: For the "Enter His Courts" Ministry Expansion Campaign that God would teach us stewardship and this campaign allow the cross and entrance project to move forward, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have Mercy**

P: For the Panamanian Lutheran Church of El Redentor, Balboa, Dos es Grande, Loma Cova, Castillo Fuerte, Los Andes, and La Chorrera Mission Church that God would continue to grow His kingdom and His church, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have Mercy**

P: For the children of God, especially **Brooks Dean Cole** baptized this weekend.

C: **Lord, have Mercy**

P: For

Becky Behrens, Dorothy Blume (Carol Schuldt's sister), **Joanne Bowman** (Rob Bowman's mother), **April Tutton Clark** (Sister of Grace Maurer), **Tom Cowley** (Aaron Mueller's brother-in-law), **Hank Diggelmann, John Enokian** (brother of Chuck Enokian), **Dean Hargens, Mary Helen Gibson** (sister of Gwen McNatt Enokian), **Jeff Hundley** (grandson of Karen Abernathy), **Dora Jacobson** (granddaughter of George and Carol Schuldt), **Todd Jones** (Barb & Ron Jones' son), **Ruth Langelough, Dot Langholdt** (friend of Ruth Varney), **Ben Malcom** (father of Tiffany Roiseland), **Craig Michel** (Denise Schwarting's step-dad), **Laura Miller** (Linda Bonefeld's mother), **Norma Miller** (Twyla Freeman's aunt), **Jane Mills** (aunt of Rob Ghabel), **Merri Mullane, Julie Pratt-Mullenkamp** (Cousin of Ruth Varney), **Erin Nielsen** (cousin of Crissy Pence), **Faith Pederson, Ed Pederson, Beverly Prem, Ben Rollins** (Lorrie Bailey's cousin), **Carol Schuldt, George Schuldt, Lee Schwarting** (Art Schwarting's mother), **Stanley Seese** (friend of Harold Warner), **Carol Simpson** (mother of Kara Hartwig), **Arlan Thompson, Marlene Thompson, Natalie Ullrich** (Jeff Kucera's cousin), **Reece Ullerich, Don Warner** (Harold Warner's brother), **Harold Warner, and Garry Wilcox** (Melissa Mullane's dad),

let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord have Mercy**

P: For the family and friends of **Donna Kober** (friend of Marlene Thompson) 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, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord have Mercy**

P: Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have Mercy, Christ, have Mercy, Lord, have mercy. Amen.**

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Sun 03/29	Worship Service 8:00am PALM SUNDAY Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 9:20am Worship Service 10:30am Outreach Event 12:00pm The Chosen (Double Feature) 5:00pm
Mon 03/30	Staff Meeting 1:00pm Chamber Singers 6:00pm Sunlight AA Group 6:00pm
Tues 03/31	Bell Choir 6:00pm Al-Anon 7:00pm
Wed 04/01	Prayer Walk 11:00am—7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 6:45pm Midweek Classes 6:45pm
Thurs 04/02	Maundy Thursday Service 1:00pm Visitation 6:30 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00pm Al-Anon 7:30pm
Fri 04/03	Good Friday Service 1:00pm Good Friday Service 7:00pm
Sat 04/04	Easter Breakfast Prep 8:00am Worship Service 5:30pm
Sun 04/05	Easter Worship Services 7:00am 7:00am 8:30am 10:30am Easter Breakfast 8:00am Easter Egg Hunt 10:05am
Mon 04/06	Preschool Committee 4:45pm Easter Monday OFFICE CLOSED Chamber Singers 6:00pm Sunlight AA Group 6:00pm Youth Committee 6:00pm



BAPTISM

Brooks Dean Cole
Son of
Travis & Carolyn Cole

Saturday, March 28 ~ 5:30pm

Sponsors:
Mike & Tiffany Arthur
Sadie Frantz



Today's (March 29) coffee and treats are joyfully provided by The Enter into His Courts Team. Free will offering will go towards the Ministry Expansion Campaign

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: April 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

Watch *Reflections* for more details



Set up for Prayer Walk
March 30 & 31

Prayer Walk
Wednesday, April 1
11:00am—7:00pm

MAUNDY THURSDAY
 April 2
 Services 1:00pm & 7:00pm

NO SCHOOL
ICCSD
April 3

GOOD FRIDAY
Office Closed
April 3
 Services 1:00pm & 7:00pm

EASTER SUNDAY
 April 6
 Services 7:00am, 8:30am, 10:30am
 Breakfast 8:00am
 Easter Egg Hunt 10:05am

LWML ZONE EVENT
 Saturday, April 11, 8:30am

ESWATINI LUNCH
& PRESENTATION
 Sunday, April 12, 12:00pm
 Fellowship Hall



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



SPRING
CONFIRMATION
RETREAT
 April 18-20



EASTER MONDAY
 April 6
OFFICE CLOSED



Wednesday, April 22, 2026

Spiritual Growth Event
 7:00pm, Sanctuary

Reception & Fellowship
 8:00pm, Fellowship Hall

CONFIRMATION
Sunday, April 26
10:30 service

NO SCHOOL ICCSD
April 24



TASTING BEE
 April 25, 11:00am
 Fellowship Hall

CALL DAY - ST. LOUIS
Tuesday, April 28, 3:00pm
 For vicarage assignments
 &
Former Vicar Tyler Simmons
 Call as pastor is at 7:00pm

Birthdays

March 29	Kathy Bell, Toby Brase
March 30	Grant Anderson, Chris Norenberg, Melissa Wade, Lyle Wagner, Silas Weis
March 31	Brian Buelow, Robert Hammond, Brent Nelson, Lucy Robinson, Shannon Siems, Marty Wenck
April 1	Elliot Miskle, Timothy Simmons
April 2	David Bohnsack, Rochelle Mullet, Nathaniel Stoll
April 3	Christopher Sexton, Olivia Warner
April 4	Jacob Carlson, Barb Farnsworth, Angel Josten, Shane Rasmussen, Pam Wilson

Stewardship—March 21/22

ATTENDANCE		TREASURES	
Sat. 3/21 In Person 5:30pm	30	Contributions	\$9,244.00
Sun. 3/22 In Person 8:00am	95	Monthly needs for budget	\$71,996.33
Sun. 3/22 In Person 10:30am	139	Lenten Services (March 18)	31/57
TOTAL WEEKEND WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	264	Adult Bible Class/Sunday School	56/59



MISSION	March
Iowa District East	\$2,916.66
TOTAL	\$2,916.66
Orphan Grain Train	\$612.25
Lutheran World Relief	\$5,500.00
MONTH TOTAL	\$9,028.91
Crisis Center	\$20.00
Lutherans for Life	\$595.82
Concordia Seminary Food Bank	\$600.00
TOTAL	\$10,244.73

Membership Changes and Official Acts

<u>Death</u>	
Donald Oxley	03-17-2026
<u>Baptism</u>	
Calvin James Patterson	03-08-2026
Brooks Dear Cole	03-28-2026
<u>Removed</u>	
Fredrick, Nora , & John Walters	03-13-2026
Marc & Terry Knottnerus	03-13-2026
Benjamin Anderson	03-13-2026
Mark & Debra Vinsand, Cameron	03-13-2026
Jeff & Dawn Ealy, Jonathan & Blake	03-13-2026
Patricia Morrow	03-13-2026
Dennis Stockman	03-13-2026
<u>Transferred In</u>	
Beth Richter	03-05-2026

FLOWERS NEEDED FOR EASTER!

Beautify the sanctuary on Easter by shopping for any type of beautiful, open-blossom, potted (spring) plants (Easter Lilies, Asters, Mums, Aztec Lilies, Daffodils, Tulips, Begonia, etc.). Drop them off at church in the Board Room during Holy Week. We will need them at church by the end of Good Friday, April 3. Any dropped off before April 1 will also be used for the Prayer Walk. Please mark your name on the bottom of the potted plant or place a labeled ice cream stick in the plant so you can take them back home after late service on Easter Sunday. The more plants, the more beauty. Thanks in advance for helping beautify the sanctuary in celebration of our risen Lord. Please try to pick up the flowers as soon after the 10:30 am Easter worship as possible.



Calling All Ladies of Our Redeemer.

The District LWML (Lutheran Women in Mission) is holding their biennial convention in Iowa City this year and Our Redeemer has been asked to provide hostesses (people that are willing to guide, direct, and otherwise assist convention goers) at the Graduate for two hour shifts on June 12th and 13th. We need more people than our local active group can provide if we want to work only two hour blocks so we would love it if you could spare two hours either or both days. This would be a wonderful opportunity for anyone who would like to see what a local convention is like and/or if you would like to register and spend time at the sessions as well.

Contact Laurel Sellers (319) 331-3242 or Cynthia Fruendt (319) 855-8921 for more information or to schedule a shift. The sign up sheet will be at the Tasting Bee signup table this weekend.



EASTER EMPTY TOMB CRAFT March 29th at Noon

Come together to celebrate the resurrection with a meaningful, all-ages Easter tomb craft! Each household will be creating a beautiful centerpiece featuring potting soil, clay saucers, movable rocks, small pots, quick-growing grass, and homemade crosses—a perfect way to visualize the empty tomb. We'll kick off the afternoon with a walking taco lunch in the church Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you there for this fun, friendly event!

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AS WELL!!!

TASTING BEE DEADLINES FAST APPROACHING

**March 29th - Last day to sign up for table decorating and recipes
and**

Last day for earned tickets to be purchased

The Tasting Bee is on Saturday, April 25th at 11:00 a.m.

Table decorators and recipes still needed!!

LWML sponsors this event to raise funds for missions — this year to Eswatini Parish Nursing, Vicar Tyler Simmons and Informed Choices (exact distributions to be determined later). *To make this a success, we need congregational support to sign up to provide a recipe or decorate and host a table.*

Support missions along with the LWML by doing any of the following:

- **Provide a recipe** by to be included in the cookbook we compile and print to be handed out to those attending the Tasting Bee. When you sign up and submit your recipe, you are agreeing to make the recipe enough for 185 bites. A teaspoon is a TASTE. Anything else is a helping.
- **Decorating a table according to the theme.** A round table seats 8. A rectangle table seats 10. This year's theme is "Alleluia: Praise the Lord for ..."
- **Sign up on the waiting list** for tickets remaining after signups are finished.

When you sign up to submit and make a recipe and/or decorate a table it entitles you to purchase 3 tickets for each thing you sign up to do, at \$12 each which you give or sell to your invited friends. You can purchase all tickets you are entitled to or only the amount you need. A waiting list is available to purchase available extra tickets after March 29th.

Signup will end March 29th. You will be able to purchase your allotted tickets the day you sign up and they must be purchased before March 29th or they will go to people on the waiting lists. Recipes need to be sent to Sandy Wagner at packratsandy@yahoo.com with "RECIPE" in the Subject Line by April 13th. Speak to the people at the signup table soon or contact any of the people below with questions. Thanks in advance.

TASTING BEE CHAIRS

Cynthia Fruendt - dcfruentd@icloud.com
Donna Saehler - dojosaehler9591@gmail.com
Laurel Sellers - klksellers@gmail.com
Laura Stresow - lstresow@gmail.com
Sandy Wagner - packratsandy@yahoo.com

COFFEE! INFORMATION! SWAG!

It's an exciting time! This weekend you will be seeing more at the coffee hour which is being served by members of the Campaign team. All monies contributed during the coffee time will go directly to the Cross and Entrance Project. There are bookmarks and magnets with the logo as a reminder to pray for this new Ministry Expansion Campaign. Put a Save the Date on your calendars for Sunday, April 26, at 5:30 pm for the first Commitment Event.



Next Sunday (Easter) go to your church mailbox to retrieve important communications from the team. In the packet there will be a commitment card that you can bring to the Leadership Commitment Event on Sunday, April 26, at 5:30 pm. All are invited to attend this event and attendees will be expected to make their commitments at that time. Further opportunities include bringing commitment cards to the May 2/3 worship services, mail the card to the church in the enclosed envelope, or bring the commitment card in the enclosed envelope to the church office.

Ministry Expansion Campaign Team

Executive Team

Pastor Staff	Pastor Hartwig (also our ministry solutions consultant), Vicar Vought
Campaign Director	Susan Scott
Campaign Manager	Kevin Rauch
Communications Managers	Cynthia Freundt, Laurel Sellers
Connections Coordinator	Diane Burke
Prayer Coordinator	Pam Wilson
Visitation Team	Bill Benson, Bruce Maurer
Hospitality Coordinator	Krista Jiroutek
Hospitality Team	Julie Nieland, Tracy Nelson, John Nelson, Steve Scott
Children's Leader	Tiffany Roiseland
Youth Leader	Art Schwarting, Denise Schwarting
Preschool Leader	Kristin Weis

28 Days in Prayer

On your own or with your family, help support the "Enter His Courts" Campaign and the Cross & Entrance Project through prayer each day from April 6 to May 3, Commitment Sunday.

April 6: Lord, with a successful "Enter His Courts" campaign, we will be able to accommodate handicapped people, elderly, and all who wish to enter safely the doors of our church. We pray that You touch the hearts of all our congregation, from the youngest to the oldest, as we know that it's about equal sacrifice, not equal giving. Amen

April 7: Lord, we pray for the success of our Cross & Entrance Project to make it safer and easier for all to access our church. We want to be a welcoming church for our members, children, and the community. Amen

April 8: Lord, we know that all we have has come from You. Help us to find ways to give back by praying for the leaders of the “Enter His Courts” campaign as they plan events and communicate information to us. Give us open hearts and listening ears to hear what the needs of our church are. Amen

April 9: Lord, our church hallways will be warmer on Wednesday nights for Midweek, our sidewalks will be drier, and our weather issues will be minimized if You grant us a successful “Enter His Courts” campaign. We pray that Your will be done. Amen

April 10: Lord, let us be a source of support and encouragement for others as they seek to do Your will for our “Enter His Courts” campaign. We pray for the leaders of the campaign that they may know our support for them and know that we appreciate all their efforts to plan events and keep us all informed during the next four weeks. Amen

April 11: Lord, security these days is a concern for many of us. The Cross & Entrance Project with double-door entrances will provide safer protection from intruders who are not seeking Your comfort. Help ease our minds of this worry by touching our hearts as we decide our financial giving. Amen

April 12: Lord, let it be known to all of our church members and children, that we are all a part of the “Enter His Courts” campaign. We can pray for our leaders, we can talk with our friends about the improvements to be made, we can help others who are not as well informed about our campaign and speak with them about it. Thy will be done. Amen

April 13: Lord, be with us and unite us in our efforts to replace our existing outdoor cross. It is a reminder of You, Your Son and the Holy Spirit to those driving by and to our own members. The presence of the cross speaks volumes about what Our Redeemer cherishes. Amen

April 14: Lord, we are all Your children and age makes no difference. Help us to realize that small amounts of giving are appreciated just as much as large amounts. We can all contribute to the “Enter His Courts” campaign regardless of age. Amen

April 15: Lord, help us to lift up our Christian friends and discuss with positive outlooks the success of the “Enter His Courts” campaign. Help us be willing to explain our future Cross and Entrance Project to those who may not be as informed. Amen

April 16: Lord, we know that everything we have comes from You although we don’t always acknowledge it. Help us to have giving hearts in these coming weeks so that we can support the “Enter His Courts” campaign knowing it’s not about equal giving, but rather equal sacrifice. Amen

April 17: Lord, You supply every need of ours according to Your will. Help us to generously supply the needs of the Cross and Entrance Project through our giving to the “Enter His Courts” campaign. Amen

April 18: Lord, conform our lives so that our will is in line with Your will. As we seek to undertake this campaign at Our Redeemer, may we see You changing us. Amen

April 19: Lord, thank You for your promise to do far more abundantly than all we can ask or think. May we trust You to do big things in and through us. May this campaign bring glory to You here at Our Redeemer. Amen

April 20: Lord, throughout time, You have done miraculous things using ordinary people like us. Let us shine our light on You by giving generously to the “Enter His Courts” campaign, not equal giving, but equal sacrifice. Amen

April 21: Lord, help us continue our outreach opportunities by providing for ourselves and the community more inviting and convenient entrances to our church for all who enter Your courts. Amen

April 22: Lord, Your generosity is impossible to fathom. Help us to cheerfully and sacrificially give and support “Enter His Courts” campaign that will allow Our Redeemer to minimize weather issues, provide safer protection from intruders, be more energy efficient, address the needs of handicapped and elderly attendees, and so much more. Amen

April 23: Lord, may Our Redeemer be a blessing to this community and beyond as we seek to undertake this ministry expansion campaign. Amen

April 24: Lord, may we be good stewards of Your gracious gifts. Bless us all at Our Redeemer as we serve in this campaign. Amen

April 25: Lord, let us hope in You continually and praise You yet more and more for all that You will do in and through us at Our Redeemer. Open our hearts to the joy of giving. Amen

April 26: Lord, guide our financial decisions and bless our resources. Inspire generosity, wisdom, and faithful stewardship in us. May every commitment honor You and advance Your Kingdom. Let our church prosper according to Your will. Amen

April 27: Lord, guide Our Redeemer in our campaign for our Cross & Entrance Project. Direct our plans, decisions, and resources according to Your will. Help us grow wisely, serve efficiently, and reach more souls for Your Kingdom. May every step glorify Your name. Amen

April 28: Lord, we give thanks for the devotion of the leaders of Our Redeemer’s campaign. Through their efforts we have come to understand the “Enter His Courts” campaign and the opportunities for expansion of Your ministry. Amen

April 29: Lord, guide our financial stewardship. Help us to manage our resources wisely to give generously and honor You in our decisions. Amen

April 30: Lord, pour out Your favor upon our church. Open the doors of opportunity, bless our ministry, and grant success in our endeavor to further Your Kingdom through our campaign. Amen

May 1: Lord, help us to provide physical, spiritual, and emotional protection for the congregation as we offer double-door entrances to our church through the Cross & Entrance Project so that all who enter our church can freely worship, learn, and serve in peace. Amen

May 2: Lord, unite our congregation in purpose, love, and faith and may everyone who enters Our Redeemer feel Your presence and be drawn to a closer relationship with You. Amen

May 3: Lord, bless us as we make our commitments to the “Enter His Courts” campaign remembering again, not equal giving, but equal sacrifice. Let us continue our praying to include blessings for the architects, contractors, and city officials involved in the days to come. Amen

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2026 ~ 7:00pm

Present: Jeff Kucera, Bruce Maurer, Barb pronk, Kennedy Donovan, Kevin Roiseland,
Dave Yansky, Mary Robinson, Steve Scott, Kaja Mueller

1. Call to Order, Welcome
2. Opening Devotion – Pastor Hartwig
3. Bylaws Review
 - Article IV: Division/Dissolution
 - Article V: Members
4. Reviewed minutes from last meeting – approved.
5. Treasurer’s Report – Kennedy Donovan
 - Net Income \$62,000
6. Elder’s Report – Kevin Roiseland
 - Discussed updates on the campaign.
 - Discussed Vicar’s salary increase and upon recommendation from the Elders, the B.O.D. approved Vicar’s salary by \$400 per month for the coming year.
7. At Large Reports –
 - A. Mary Robinson – N/A
 - B. Jim Tiedemann – N/A
 - C. Steve Scott –
 - Preschool going well.
 - Youth will be serving Easter Breakfast.
8. Church Properties – Dave Yansky
 - Work Day scheduled April 18 (Saturday)/Rain date will be May 20.
 - Valve repair before AC turned on. Rob and Dave to replace.
 - Replace fire suppression cartridge.
 - Motor/Replacement/Bearings – Rob Bowman.
 - Johnson Controls contract.
 - Repaired oven.
 - Repaired elevator (Schumacher Elevator Company).
 - \$1500 from easement added to the budget.
 - Tie in hood microswitch and NOX suppresser.
9. Staff Reports –
 - A. Pastor –
 - Paperwork is completer for Vicar and/or Associate Pastor.
 - Pastor requested that all members of the congregation pray that God’s will be done in this matter.
 - B. Vicar – N/A
 - C. Adult – Denise – N/A
 - D. Kaja – Preschool –
 - “Hello from Around the World” Theme.
 - Shelter House came with their animals.
 - 12 preschool children sang at Lenten service.

- Preschool substitute teachers were great while Kaja was in Panama.
 - North Star Child Care will be moving to their new building before June.
 - Open enrollment has 12 students for next school year.
- E. Kara/Kaja – Children –
- Spring confirmation trip.
 - Easter Breakfast coming up.
10. Discussion Items –
- LLL Convention will be on April 11th at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca in Solon. We encourage all men to sign up to attend.
 - The congregation is invited to attend the Leadership Commitment Event on Sunday, April 26th at 5:30pm.
11. Kudos – The Board of Directors thanks the following members -
- Dave Fruendt for cleaning up our parking lot after the winter snows.
 - Rob Bowman for repairing the air handler that needed new bearings, that he replaced then reinstalled the handler.
 - John Robinson for buying a new drill with pop money.
12. Prayer and Adjourn: Next meeting April 9th at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Pronk Secretary

LWML Meeting April 20 at 7:00pm



Topic of Discussion: Petal Pushers (Float builders for the Rose Bowl Parade)
Presented by: Linda Diggelmann
Devotions: Laura Stresow
Hostesses: Angela Hotz & Donna Saehler



Building Healthy Families: If it weren't for the events of nearly 2000 years ago this week, it really wouldn't matter what we do or say here at Lutheran Family Service. At best, all counseling would be a temporary fix. But thank God, it did happen and it does matter. During Holy Week we reflect with you on Jesus's life, Passion, sacrifice, and death – but not without a sure, confident hope. As Easter People, we walk through this dark week with solemnity while preparing in our hearts to celebrate Christ's triumphant resurrection from the dead. With you, we believe in God who raised Jesus. The reality of these historic events gives meaning and purpose to every one of our days. His redeeming love guides all our choices and relationships. LFS counselors who share your confident hope and faith are available to support you through whatever life circumstance or unresolved issue may be trying to steal your joy today. Call us – it's why we're here! Learn more at www.LutheranFamilyService.org **Lutheran Family Service**

Voters Meeting/Campaign Kickoff
“Enter His Courts” – Ministry Expansion Campaign
February 8, 2026

Opening

Pastor Hartwig opened the meeting with prayer.

Presentation

Jeff Kucera presented on the Enter His Courts – Ministry Expansion Campaign.

Campaign Overview – a focused, three-year fundraising campaign designed to support important facility improvements and ministry needs.

Key principles of the campaign:

- Purpose-driven giving
- Encouraging giving above and beyond regular offerings
- Grounded in a spiritual foundation of prayer
- Emphasis on community participation
- Following a structured campaign process

Campaign booklets were distributed.

The project addresses two primary needs:

1. Replacing the deteriorating cross with a weather-resistant steel structure.
2. Improving entrances to increase safety, accessibility, and security.

Planned Improvements

The project includes several facility upgrades:

- Vestibule doors and security controls
- Main canopy and cross tower drop-off area
- West canopy, interior door, and security upgrades
- East canopy and security controls

Estimated Project Costs

Preliminary cost estimates discussed included:

- Interior door: \$81,804
- Main canopy and cross tower: \$631,831
- West canopy: \$120,526
- East canopy: \$142,904

Estimated total project cost: \$995,965 - \$1.1 million

Additional details still being finalized include

- Final cost adjustments
- Determination of who will construct the new cross

Financial Context

The original Vision 20/20 project was estimated at approximately \$1.4 million.

Through surpluses, regular payments, and additional contributions the loan has steadily been reduced ahead of schedule.

Next Steps

Congregation members were asked to pray and seek confirmation as they consider their participation.

Commitment cards will be collected as part of the campaign process.

Updated cost information and next steps will be communicated as the project planning continues.

LWML Cedar Rapids Zone Spring Event



*Rejoice in the
Lord always;
again I say,
rejoice. Philippians 4:4*

Saturday, April 11, 2026

8:30 am Registration 9:00 am Brunch/Program

**Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
2301 East Court Street, Iowa City, IA**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Brent Hartwig
“Foro: Joy in Working Together in Christ”

In-gathering Recipient: Domestic Violence Intervention Program
Items needed are bath towels, washcloths, twin sheet sets, bed pillows, twin size blankets, body soap, shampoo and body lotions.

Church-Spring Clean-Up Day

April 18th (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

Inside and/or Outside spring clean-up, you either love it or you dread it! But it doesn't have to be...with the right tools and the right strategy, we can turn church spring clean-up into an easy Saturday project! There are a variety of projects for everyone's ability level. Let's cut our cleaning time in half by teaming up with a partner(s) [let's rolling up our sleeves] and getting to work! Please bring supplies like gloves, rakes, cleaning rags, pliers, wrenches, screw drivers (flat blade and phillips) and screw gun. Look for the sign-up sheet on the Welcome Counter in the Narthex. All help is welcome.

Greetings from Concordia St. Louis!

I hope that this Lenten season finds you well. Every spring break, the Laudamus choir goes on a tour of a different part of the country. This year, we visited Southern California. Every day we visited different congregations in the region and sang a worship service with them, performing several of the pieces we rehearsed over the year. It has been a joy to share God's gift of music and to meet the wonderful people of our congregations across America. We stayed with host families every night, allowing us to get to know some of the members even better. It is always heartening to meet so many kind and faithful people. We had the privilege of meeting a retired pastor who is 103 years old! He graduated from Concordia St. Louis all the way back in 1947, and he is still encouraging today's students with his strong faith and his words of wisdom. We sang a piece called "Lord When Your Glory I Shall See," which is based on a passage in Revelation that describes seeing Jesus in heaven, and it was moving to witness the joy with which this pastor looks forward to meeting his Savior and spending eternity with Him!

Right now, I am joyfully looking forward to my vicarage placement service, which is coming up at the end of April. I am excited to learn where I am going to serve God's church next year! Perhaps I will get to come back to the beautiful beaches and hills of California—although I hope it will not be so hot! Thank you for your support and encouragement as my third year of seminary approaches. Thank you especially for your prayers. May God bless you in this Lenten season as you look forward to the joy of Easter and the Resurrection! I am planning to spend Easter Break in Iowa City, so I look forward to seeing you then!

Looking forward,
Nathaniel Pekari



LUTHERAN WITNESS

Subscriptions will need to be in by **Monday, April 20**. If you wish to continue your subscription or add a new one, stop by the office to check or add your address and drop off a check in the amount of **\$23.50 (amount for annual subscription)** made out to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. In the memo line please put ***Lutheran Witness Subscription***. If you are wanting to have a subscription to Lutheran Witness for the first time, call or see Lorrie in the office during regular hours Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm. If you are looking for an example to see what one is like there is an edition of the Lutheran Witness in the Library.



Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

February 2026

Greetings in Christ from Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca!

"For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."

- Galatians 5:13

Registration is now open for our 2026 Summer Program. This year's theme is **Free to Serve**. Enclosed, you will find two posters. Please hang the posters where they may be seen. Should you need more posters, please contact us, and we will mail them to you.

On the posters, there are two QR Codes. One of the QR Codes is for prospective staff members to scan in order to find out more information about being a counselor at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. The other is for parents to scan and will take them to our website which will provide more information about our Summer Program as well as the link to register online. We have updated our registration process to be completely online. All forms will now be accessible and able to be completed through our registration website. They will no longer be available as printable versions.

For individuals who would like to register for camp for the first time, our *First-Time Camper* Scholarship is a way in which we continually pursue new campers by cutting the cost of their first camp experience. Please refer new and interested families to this tuition discount. Camp scholarship funds are also available to those who need financial assistance. Additionally, your congregation may sponsor campers as they look to attend summer camp. If your congregation would like to financially contribute to your members' camp experience, please contact office@iodiseca.org to find out how we can help facilitate your payment.

Discounts are available to pastors and rostered church workers as well! Additional information on both financial aid and discounts can also be found on our website.

We look forward to having your congregation's youth join us this summer as they enjoy the outdoors, study God's Word, and make unforgettable memories.

Peace in Christ,



Alec Deppe
Director of Programs and Retreats
Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

IOWA DISTRICT EAST LLL CONVENTION

We are God's Fellow Workers

... Because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now ...
Philippians 1:5



SATURDAY, APRIL 11

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca
3271 Sandy Beach Rd NE
Solon, IA 52333

9:00 a.m.	Registration Opens
10:00 a.m.	Convention Begins
4:00 p.m.	Convention Concludes

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:



GUEST SPEAKER
Rev. Dr. Matthew Heise
Executive Director,
Lutheran Heritage Foundation



**Households of Faith
Presentation**



**Iowa District East
LWML Update**

Mail completed form and payment to:
Richard Hoelz, IDE LLL District President
3519 Heatheridge Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

For more information, please contact:
Richard Hoelz, IDE LLL District President
rahoelz@imonmail.com • (319) 363-1214

REGISTRATION FORM 2026 IDE LLL DISTRICT CONVENTION

Registration deadline **April 6**
Make check payable to
IDE LLL District

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Number of Attendees: _____ at \$20 per person (includes lunch) Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Canada & New England Cruise

Still Available
BOOK NOW



7-DAY CANADA & NEW ENGLAND CIRCLE: NEW BRUNSWICK
Oct 3 - Oct 10, 2026

SHIP: **Zuiderdam** DEPARTS: **Boston, Massachusetts, US** ARRIVES: **Boston, Massachusetts, US**

Join Pastor and Kara Hartwig on a cruise to Canada's dynamic cities and Maine's alluring ports. Halifax's stunning waterfront, Sydney's giant fiddle, and Portland's eclectic boutiques. The beginning of October should be excellent for the changing colors of the New England leaves and the end of the whale watching season. In addition to experiencing all that Holland America has to offer, we will have private group Bible studies and a worship service. Planning to join us is as simple as 1, 2, 3...

Explore Staterooms!

Inside cabin from \$1,469 pp.
Ocean View cabin from \$1,639 pp.
Verandah cabin from \$2,249 pp.



1

Prices include all taxes and fees for the cruise.



You can book your own flight, have Pastor help you book, or have Holland America book your flight. Pastor suggests that you arrive in Boston by Thursday, October 1, 2026. The cruise ship will not wait. Pastor is working on a fun excursion for Friday in Boston. Do you want suggestions or help with your hotel before the cruise? Talk to Pastor. The excursion and hotel will be at an extra cost.



Holland America's "Have It All" is an optional premium package that bundles four key amenities—a Shore Excursion credit, a Signature Beverage Package, Specialty Dining, and Wi-Fi—into the cruise fare for significant savings over buying them separately, offering great value for guests who use all perks, though value varies by cruise length and usage.

Please contact Pastor with any questions – You know he LOVES to talk about travel! (319)855-2521
If you are ready to book with Holland America, then call Bernice Harris, Holland America Personal Cruise Consultant at 800-355-3017 ext. 28109. Tell her... Group ID: TP6 Group Name: Orlc, Iowa City



Nice shirt Lynn Smith

ORLC Pancake Day 335 People Served



2
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2
6



PANAMA VBS MISSION TRIP

THANK YOU

The Mission Committee would like to thank all the Mission Trip supporters and participants for helping with the February VBS programs in Panama.



ORLC participated with the VBS programs in Los Andes, Balboa, Loma Cova and La Chorrera

Mission Committee Members

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



A great time was had by all.



There was also time to visit the local attractions.



Mission Committee Members

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

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



Toddlin' to 5th Grade
Sundays at 9:20am

Date	Scripture	Bible Lesson
March 29	Judges 7:1-23	A Judge Leads—Gideon
April 5	<i>Easter Worship 7:00am, 8:30am, 10:30am</i> <i>No Classes Easter Sunday</i> <i>Easter Breakfast from 8:00am—10:00am</i> <i>Easter Egg Hunt at 10:05am</i>	
April 12	1 Samuel 3	A Prophet Serves—Samuel
April 19	1 Samuel 16:1-13; 2 Samuel 5:1-5; 7:4-17	A King Forever—David
April 26	2 Samuel 4:4; 9:1-13	The King's Table—Mephibosheth

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.



EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday, April 5th
10:05 am

We will be holding the Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday.

ALL children 5th grade and younger are invited to join us for the Easter Egg hunt.

Please meet outside on the grassy hill by the West door.

In case of rain, we will meet inside.



Youth

6th - 12th Graders

APRIL 2026

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		

DATE	EVENT	TIME
4/1	Prayer Walk 11:00am—7:00pm Midweek Classes 	6:45pm
4/2	Maundy Thursday Service	7:00pm
4/3	Good Friday Services— OFFICE CLOSED	1:00pm 7:00pm
4/4	Easter Breakfast Prep	8:00am
4/5	Easter Service Easter Breakfast Easter Service Easter Egg Hunt Easter Service	7:00am 8:00am 8:30am 10:05am 10:30am
4/8	Midweek Meal	
4/5	Midweek Meal (High School Team)	6:00pm
4/18	Confirmation Retreat-April 18-20 Variety Show	St. Paul 7:00pm
4/22	Spiritual Growth Event	7:00pm
4/26	Confirmation	10:30am
4/28	Call Day—St. Louis Check out Concordia's Website	

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, April 1st

11:00am—7:00pm

PRAYER WALK

6:45pm MIDWEEK

CLASSES



Thursday, April 2nd

1:00pm & 7:00pm

Maundy Thursday Services

Friday, April 3rd

1:00pm & 7:00pm

Good Friday Services

Saturday, April 4th

8:00am Easter Breakfast Prep

5:30pm Worship Service

Sunday, April 5th

7:00am Easter Service

8:00am Easter Breakfast

8:30am Easter Service

10:05am East Egg Hunt

10:30am Easter Service

Wednesday, April 8th

6:00pm Midweek Meal

6:45pm Midweek Classes



April 18th—20th

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Wednesday, April 22nd

6:00pm Pizza Dinner

(Youth Committee)

7:00am SPIRITUAL GROWTH

EVENT



Sunday, April 26th

10:30am CONFIRMATION

Tuesday, April 28th

CALL DAY—St. Louis—Please check out the Concordia Seminary website for more information

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)
Andrew Vought, 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)

2026 Board of Elders

Tim Eick	248-514-2881
Rick Gienapp	319-331-7425
Skip Kempnich	319-331-5639
Cameron Koch	319-269-0871
Jordan Lyon	563-506-2321
Brad Mullane	319-936-5826
TJ Ramsey	319-325-3790
Kevin Roiseland (Chairman)	319-230-5247
Chad Waring	319-331-8303

2026 Board of Directors

President	Jeff Kucera	563-316-1088
Vice President	Bruce Maurer	319-530-1524
Secretary	Barb Pronk	641-425-4880
Treasurer	Kennedy Donovan	515-230-2057
Board of Elders	Kevin Roiseland	319-230-5247
Properties	Dave Yansky	319-621-7694
At Large	Mary Robinson	319-400-5572
	Steve Scott	563-889-0990
	Jim Tiedemann	319-341-3400

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.

Easter Joy!

Matthew 28: 6-7

(Sung to 'Joy to the World')

Joy to the earth!
Our Lord is risen!
Let us now praise our King!
Let every heart, now give Him room
While heaven and creation sing,
Till the universe rafter's ring!
All together, we worship
Our Lord and King!

He gave His life
For you and me.
Sinners we are, truly..
For all have sinned
And fallen from His grace
Yet our Lord came down to earth
To save our fallen race
And now our song
Goes on and on!

We are put here
To do His work
And spread the Gospel Truth;
To tell our fellow man
About our Father's plan!
He saved us through His Son
Vict'ry o'er death is won!
Give Him glory!
Tell the Story
And pass it on!

Carol Schuldt

