



The Palestine Press

March 2016

Volume XXX Number 3
Monthly newsletter of
Palestine Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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Reaching Out in Christian Love to All

Our Vision:

Palestine Lutheran Church will be a haven for all generations, a people worshipping and growing continually in relationship with Jesus, inspired by God's Word; a living example of stewardship, a loving and caring fellowship that reaches out in Christ-centered faith and love to the world.

Mission Statement:

"Palestine Lutheran Church exists to proclaim and live God's Holy Word, to nurture and support our membership, and to enable us to live our faith in our daily lives. As we are nourished, we are called to reach out to our communities, our spheres of influence, and to the wider world through the church-at-large."

Considering "Righteousness" and "Faith"-----

---- With Pastor Eric

I was moved to share this blog post with you as a part of the Pastor's portion of the newsletter. I have been thinking about what "being right with God" (righteousness) looks like from a Lutheran perspective. This post by Bishop Michael Rinehart has helped me consider "faith" during this season of Lent.

Righteousness, I Reckon (reflections by Bishop Michael Rinehart)

I've been taking a look at the first lessons for Lent, which come from the Hebrew Bible. This Sunday's lesson, from Genesis 15 is one of my favorites. It is also the text that Paul uses in Romans and Galatians, to show that righteousness by faith (not by the law) was God's plan all along (Romans 4:3, 4:22, Galatians 3:6).

First of all, I must admit, I am perplexed by the verse selection here. Ending at verse 18 has us ending mid-sentence. This makes no sense to me whatsoever. If you're going to go that far, go to the end of the chapter, verse 21, and finish the thought. I would, however, submit to you, that all you really need is verses 1-6. Verse seven takes you into new territory: the sacrificial system. This is well worth sermon time, but would probably be a different sermon than verses 1-6, on which I will now focus.

Paul's interpretation of the Hebrew Bible is almost always allegorical. Isaiah and Ishmael, Sarah and Hagar, are all symbolic of law and gospel issues. Luther, like Paul, always seems to interpret the Hebrew Bible christologically. As followers of Christ, we must also consider this understanding of the text, but first let us try to see it in its original context.

Here is the text, well, the first six verses anyway:

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Abram has been in battle. Appropriately, this word from the Lord includes a phrase we often find coming from divine messengers in the Bible, “Do not be afraid.” Abram responds, “Well, that’s fine, but what good is that if I die childless, and my family line comes to an end?” Currently, his heir is a servant.

God responds that Abram’s heir will come from his own loins. [Sara Koenig](#), Associate Professor of Biblical Studies at Seattle Pacific University, points out that it will be another 14 years before God makes good on this promise. In the meantime, Abram has to live on trust. Have you ever had to base your life on an illusive hope that may not pan out at all? Sometimes we are called to place our bets on promises that are hard to believe. That is called faith.

YHWH adds a very concrete part to this promise, one that is both imaginative and poetic: “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them... So shall your descendants be.” I imagine that would be a pretty hard promise to believe, if one was childless.

Sara Koenig invites us to contemplate whether Abram considered God righteous because of the promise or whether God considered Abram righteous for believing it. The subject and object are not clear in the original Hebrew: “he reckoned it to him as righteousness.” Who reckoned it to whom? Well, Paul, as we shall see, has a very clear opinion about this.

[Ralph W. Klein](#), Christ Seminary-Seminex Professor Emeritus of Old Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, points out that verses 7-12 show that Abram is still having trouble believing the promise. And yet, Abram accepts God’s word on the matter. That is what makes this passage interesting, and it also leads us to the apostle Paul’s interpretation.

In dealing with the followers of Christ in Rome and Galatia (modern day Turkey), the apostle is battling a creeping theology, that their righteousness comes through dietary practices, ritual acts, and moral choices. Paul is no stranger to this theology, having been trained as a Pharisee. We are also no strangers to this theology. Here in the Texas and Louisiana we are surrounded by sermons telling us to be good, and a theology that teaches works-righteousness. You must be good enough for God. Paul categorically rejects this theology.

Those who push this theology in Rome and Galatia trot out the Old Testament law. They lift up the Law of Moses as the example. This is the standard. Those who do not adhere to these laws are not righteous. Today some would say they are not Christian. Paul is smart

enough to know that the law contains some unattainable and even unreasonable elements. He has seen how rigid adherence to the law can actually foster self-righteousness that drives us away from God. “For the law brings wrath...” (Romans 15:15) His training has helped him realize that the Law will not get us where we need to go.

Reaching back into Genesis, Paul shows the Romans and Galatians that God declared Abram righteous, not because of the Law of Moses, which would not be given for another 500 years, but rather because of faith, which is trusting God’s promises. Abram trusted God. This is the only path to true righteousness.

Paul writes in Romans (4:20-25)

No distrust made [Abram] waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith^{} ‘was reckoned to him as righteousness.’ Now the words, ‘it was reckoned to him’, were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.*

In fact, Abram is declared righteous before he is circumcised. Circumcision, dietary laws, ritual purity, and other things do not a righteous person make. One can strive to keep the letter of the law and still be far from God. “For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse...” (Galatians 3:10) Christ became a curse for us, Paul goes on to say, by hanging on a tree.

Before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded by the law. The law was our babysitter, our disciplinarian. “But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.” (Galatians 3:25-26)

I would guess most Christians in the U.S. have never studied these words. Their idea of Christianity has come from the culture and sermons heard at sporadically attended worship services. Don’t underestimate the biblical illiteracy of your congregation. Preach this stuff. Bring it into a Bible study. It is vitally important for those who still think of Christianity like any other religion: a system of do’s and don’ts. Righteousness does not emerge from dogged adherence to laws, but rather from being in a loving relationship with God. Christ is our pathway to this. This provides the preacher a fantastic opportunity to invite people into a faith-filled and loving relationship with the God who stands at the door and knocks.



Palestine Lutheran Church

Worship & Study Opportunities-

March 2016

Call in number to listen to worship services: 597-3994
[Please be sure to put your phone on mute or sounds from your home will be carried to all phones that have dialed in for the service.]

Wednesday, March 2 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Confirmation

7 pm Mid-week Worship: What would you ask if you had one question? @ Ballard Creek

Saturday, March 5 7 a.m. Tri County Men's Bible study
@ Ballard Creek

Sunday, March 6 4th Sunday in Lent

9:30 a.m. Worship: Holy Communion

10:45 a.m. Sunday School; 1st Communion Class; Adult Class-"Water for Life"

Wednesday, March 9 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Confirmation

7 pm Mid-week Worship: If God had a face what would it look like? @ Cambridge Community Center, Cambridge

Saturday, March 12 7 a.m. Tri County Men's Bible study
@ Ballard Creek

Sunday, March 13 5th Sunday in Lent

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:45 a.m. Sunday School; Adult Class-"Water for Life"

Wednesday, March 16 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible study
6:00 pm Confirmation

7:00 p.m. Midweek Lenten worship: So What if God Was One of Us? @ Fire House, Huxley

Saturday, March 19 7 a.m. Tri County Men's Bible study
@ Ballard Creek

Sunday, March 20 Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

9:30 a.m. Worship: Holy Communion; Procession of Palms; Blessing of Quilts; Blessing of Lenten Offerings

10:45 a.m. Sunday School; 1st Communion Class; Adult Class-"Water for Life"

Wednesday, March 23 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible study

6:00 p.m. 1st Communion Class bakes bread (optional)

7:00 p.m. Candlelight Taize Worship Experience

Thursday, March 24 Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m. Worship: Holy Communion, 1st Communion, Foot-washing

Friday, March 25 Good Friday

2 p.m. Passion of Christ (movie)

5:20-6:45 p.m. The Stations of the Cross

7:00 p.m. Worship: Tenebrae service

Saturday, March 26 Vigil of Easter

7 a.m. Tri County Men's Bible study @ Ballard Creek

2-5 p.m. Easter Prayer Vigil – "The Silent Tomb"

Sunday, March 27 The Resurrection of Our Lord - Easter

7:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service: Holy Communion

9:30 a.m. Easter Festival Worship: Holy Communion

NO Sunday School

SUNDAY ADULT STUDY FOR LENT

Theme: Water for Life

Water is essential for life in every way to include economic independence and spiritual development. Not having access to water cripple families, threatens lives, and destroys opportunities and depletes life in all its' many gifts and facets. We will examine the use and image of water in the Bible as the source of life for God's people from the waters of creation, to the desert wilderness and the baptismal waters of the first church communities.

Materials will be provided.

Meets Sundays at 10:45 am in the Council Conference Room.

Daily Discipleship themes which will be used for Wed. morning Men's Bible study (uses the text for the following Sunday).. They are available on the ELCA website –

www.elca.org → Resources → Downloadable Resources → Bible Studies

March 6 4th Sunday in Lent –

Primary Text: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Prayers of Discipleship: *To Dwell in God's Grace*

March 13 5th Sunday in Lent – **Primary Text:** John 12:1-8

Prayers of Discipleship:

To Lavish Our Devotion Toward Christ

March 20 Sunday the Passion/Palm Sunday –

Primary Text: Luke 22:14-23:56

Imperatives of Discipleship:

To Experience the Depth of God's Love

March 27 Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day –

Primary Text: Luke 24:1-12

Prayers of Discipleship: *To Proclaim the Good News*

April 3 2nd Sunday of Easter – **Primary Text:** John 20:19-31

Prayers of Discipleship: *To Believe With a Trusting Heart*



Journey Into Lent & Holy Week 2016

Worship and Ministry Guide

is available on our website www.plchuxley.com under the calendar/ forms button on the home page or hard copies available in Fellowship Hall.



April 3-24th

Break into two groups (PK-2 and 3-6)

Children will leave after the children's sermon and proceed downstairs to have their lesson which will

be run by two different teachers. Children will then reenter church after their lesson (about 25 mins) during the sharing of the peace. An usher will come down and let the teachers know when it is about time to share the peace and rejoin their families.

Some background information about Children's Church –

- 1.) We are going to try Children's Church for one month in April for preschool thru 6th grade students. We have noticed that Sunday School attendance drops after Easter. This method will allow students to continue relationship building and study the Word in a way appropriate to their learning level. Sunday School will continue to be held September thru Easter - **Children's Church does not take the place of Sunday School during those months.** It could also offer an alternative which can be used in the summer or holiday times as well. We will be evaluating this trial and make adjustments, if needed, after the one month trial. Thank you for your support.
- 2.) It works with the primary values of the congregation "worship" and "fellowship (community)". Families tend to make sure that children are in worship while they may not stay for Sunday School. This method allows children to be present in worship and have their own time to target learning at their level, so they begin in worship and end in worship.
- 3.) Will not impact worship service times.
- 4.) Gives adults a chance to focus on the Word more during worship, and allows the children to focus at their level as well.

Check the April edition of the Palestine Press for Confirmation schedule, Adult classes and new member classes.



This year's Special Easter Offering will be collected for Water to Thrive. Water to Thrive is a faith-based non-profit organization established in Austin, Texas in 2007. Water to Thrive is dedicated to raising awareness of the water crisis in Africa and raising funds to build water wells for those in desperate need. Worldwide, nearly a billion people lack access to clean water and we hope to collect \$1,000 to help with this important and urgent crisis. All of the money collected for water goes directly to the water projects and is not used for administrative purposes. Thank you for helping with this project.

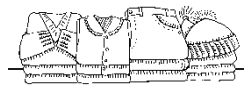
Some facts from the Water to Thrive website

www.watertothrive.org

- ✓ More than 800,000,000 people in the world do not have access to clean water
- ✓ 80% of all disease in developing countries is caused by unclean water
- ✓ Women and children in developing countries often spend 4 to 6 hours collecting water every day
- ✓ More than 3,000,000 people die each year from waterborne disease – many of them are children

You can make a difference

- Every \$1 invested in water sees \$8 in return in economic development
- Clean water means children can fully participate in school
- With safe, clean water, as much as four-fifths of disease in a community can be eliminated
- \$5,000 can build a well that will provide safe, clean water to more than 250 people for 20 years



March is our month to help with the clothing pantry in Huxley.

If you have helped in the past, we would appreciate your help again. A sign-up sheet is in the fellowship hall. The pantry is open Wed. from 4-6, Sat. from 10 - noon and Sunday from 1-3. It's best to have 2 or more people for each time slot. Easter falls in March this year so the clothing pantry is closed that weekend. Thank you for supporting this important ministry in Huxley.



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 20 –

Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion
9:30 am worship

March 23 – 7 pm Gethsemane Prayer Service

March 24 – 7 pm Maundy Thursday – “The TableTALKS” –1st Communion

March 25 – Good Friday –

2 pm Passion of Christ (movie)
5:30-6:45 pm The Stations of the Cross
7 pm Tenebrae Worship – “The Three Glances of Jesus”

March 26 – 2- 5 pm Easter Prayer Vigil – “The Silent Tomb”

EASTER Sunday March 27

7 am Sunrise Service
8 am Easter breakfast
9:30 am Easter Festival Worship



Food Pantry Needs

March is Veggie Tales
& Fruits of the Field

month at the food pantry – please donate canned
vegetables, canned tomato sauce, canned fruit,
applesauce.

Sponsored by Palestine Mission Outreach Committee



March 2016

Volunteer schedule

Greeters

3/6 Holly & Wade Twedt
..... Michelle & Matt Siepker
3/13 Jeannine & Kevin Williams
..... Jennie Huxford
3/20 Ken & Louise Larson
..... Lora Young
3/27 Jean Saveraid
..... Kelli Emerson

Acolytes –

3/6
3/13
3/20
3/27

Lectors –

3/6 Mark Doty
3/13 Bob Snider
3/20 Vallery Eisenmann
3/27 Mike Thomas
'back up lector' – Brent Emerson

Ushers

Lowell Elliott, captain Tom Shelton
Justin Sample Tim Wilson

Sunday Fellowship

Families who greet also serve beverages for fellowship.

Communion Assistants

3/6 Julie Huxford, Jeannie Williams
3/20 Bill & Sandy Harleen
3/24 Donna Millang (back up)
3/27 Helen Kepler, Nancy Fausch

Offering Counters

Bob Snider, Holly Twedt

Altar Ministry

Pat Martin, Donna Millang

Snow Removal

Feb 29-March 6

March 7-13

March 14-20

March 21-27

March 28-April 3

Deliver Food Pantry donations for March

Church Office: 515/597-2620 Fax number: 515/597-2621
 Website: www.plchuxley.com
 Secretary's Office: 515/597-2624
 Church e-mail is: PLC@huxcomm.net
 Pastor Eric Klimpel's email: ericklimpel@gmail.com
 cell: 936/444-3895

Treasurer's Report

Balance on hand February 21, 2016	
Checking Account	\$ 5,486.29
General Fund	\$ 783.25
Designated Funds	
Benevolence	475.00
Improvement	1,732.49
Technology	1,300.00
Confirmation Class	1,170.55
ROCK	25.00

Building Addition Loan Update – It's Official!

We received official notification that our loan was paid in full from South Story Bank & Trust dated 2/3/2016. "Congratulations, you have now completed payments on the loan referenced above (number is listed). This letter serves as documentation of your paid note."

March Council Meeting – Sunday, March 6, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.

Volunteers are still **needed for sidewalk snow removal** around the church.

Church Council 2016	Pastor Eric Klimpel
President: Matt Williams	Vice President: Jeff Van Pelt
Secretary: Jacob Huxford	Treasurer: Deidre Qual
Financial Sec'y: Dick Kepler	
Council: Mark Doty	
Nels Dovre	Jean Saveraid
Bruce Hartman	Kristin Shelton
Cynthia Johnson	Tim Wilson
Laura Kepler	Lora Young



As we are having a change of leadership now is a good time to update **THE LOG FOR KEYS**—if you are stepping down from a position of leadership be sure that your successor receives the key from you for that position. Let Oriett know so this can be

noted on the 'key log'. Also note we do have a key available to be checked out for one time use.

Minutes [not yet approved] Palestine Lutheran Church Annual Meeting 10:30 A.M. January 24th, 2016

Call to Order - Brad Lewis, President
 - 10:59 am Brad Lewis calls meeting to order.
 - A quorum was established.

Opening Devotions - Nels Dovre

Reading of Mission and Vision Statements

Secretary's Minutes, January 25, 2014 - Jacob Huxford, Secretary
 - Roger Moore moved to approve the minutes from January 25, 2014, Bruce Hartman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Pastor's Report - Eric Klimpel, Pastor
 - Pastor Eric went over his Annual Report and gave thanks for all of the things that have happened in the last year. He stated that he is very appreciative of what everyone does for him, especially the church staff.
 - See his report for additional details.

Congregation Council Report - Brad Lewis, President
 - Brad gave a quick review of his report. Spoke about why we have had a great few years, and spoke about how risks we have taken have paid off, and how great things have been. Thanked many people in the Congregation. Challenged the congregation to get out of our comfort zones and take risks.

Report of the Nominating Committee - Leonard Larson
 - Kristin Shelton presented the ballot.

2016 Ballot	
Office	Nominee
President	Matt Williams
Vice President	Jeff Van Pelt
Secretary	Jacob Huxford (I)
Treasurer	Deidre Qual (I)
Financial Secretary	Dick Kepler (I)
Council	Nominee
Term ending 1-2019	Laura Kepler (I)
Term ending 1-2019	Jean Saveraid
Term ending 1-2019	Lora Young (I)
Term ending 1-2017 (Filling 1 yr of Jeff Van Pelts unexpired term)	Tim Wilson

2016 Ballot	
Committees	Nominee
Finance (Term ending 1-2017)	Mike Thomas (I) Allan Kopaska (I) Brad Lewis
Nominating (4 non-council members)	Holly Twedt Kris Nelson Dem Moore Cindy Thomas
Nominating (2 council members)	Bruce Hartman Lora Young
Delegates 1 yr term	Nominee
SE IA Synod Assembly	Joyce Carlson (I) Deidre Qual (I)
Bethany Manor	Marge Sheldahl (I)
Madrid Home	Doreen Blackmer (I) Vallery Eisenmann
Riverside Bible Camp	Brent Emerson (I) Julie Emerson (I)

Elections:

- Nels Dovre moved to elect Matt Williams as President, Jeff Van Pelt as Vice President, and Jacob Huxford as Secretary – Deb Moore seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Kim Van Pelt moved to elect all of the council members at the same time, Kristin Shelton seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Finance committee – Laura Kepler moved to approve the committee, Deidre Qual seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Nominations committee – Cindy Thomas, Holly Twedt, Kris Nelson, and Deb Moore, Council members – Bruce Hartman, Lora Young. Jeff Van Pelt moved to elect the previously stated names, Roger Moore seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Delegates – Roger Moore moved to elect the delegates, Nancy Fausch seconded the motion.
- Committees list – Mark Doty moved to approve of the committee list, Jacob Huxford Seconded that motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

- Deidre

Qual, Treasurer

- Balance on hand as of January 1, 2015: \$ 16,072.00
 - 2015 Income + 268,115.14
 - 2015 Expense - 266,984.92
 - Balance on hand as of December 31, 2015: \$ 17,202.22
 - Kristin Shelton moved to approve, Richard Nelson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously
- Building Loan Status: Will be able to pay the loan off this week!!! Yay!

Audit Committee Report

- Lyle Martin

- Brad Lewis stated that the Audit Committee Report reviewed the Treasurer's Report.

Budget

- Mike Thomas

- Mike Thomas, Finance Chair, discussed the budget. He discussed their review of the budget and updates to the budget for 2016. He also discussed some of the changes, and also gave a description on what was coming up in the upcoming year. Health insurance will more than likely go up. There is also a \$10,000 budget for a Senior Choir Director position if we do decide to hire someone for that position.
- We have changed insurance companies from Brotherhood Mutual to Church Mutual.
- Lora Young moved to approve the 2016 Budget, Roger Moore seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

- Screens: Brad has a cardboard cutout that he is going to put up, so that we can see what it looks like and decide if we, as the congregation, want screens or not.

Old Business:

- Discussion of Choir Director: Any questions regarding that position? Would be a sub-contractor type of position. Can be someone from another church, from anywhere, think outside the box. Job description: Choir director, and special music. Worship committee is working on crafting a job description and salary scale that fits the budget. Anyone interested in seeing the job description please reach out to Pastor Eric.
- Big thanks goes out to Marge Sheldahl for the many years that she was the Choir Director.

Closing Prayer

- Brad Lewis, President

Jacob Huxford moved to adjourn the meeting. Mike Thomas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Minutes -- Palestine Lutheran Church Council Meeting
February 14, 2016-- Sunday -- 8:00 AM
[not yet approved]**

In Attendance: Pastor Eric Klimpel, Matt Williams, Dick Kepler, Laura Kepler, Bruce Hartman, Kristin Shelton, Jeff Van Pelt, Jacob Huxford, Mark Doty, Jean Saveraid, Deidre Qual, and Tim Wilson. A quorum was established.

Devotions - Matt

Read Vision and Mission Statements

Goals and Reflections – To provide the leadership. Pastor playoffs

Minutes of the previous meeting

- Amendment to the previous minutes: Jeff Van Pelt moved to move the timeline of Pastor Eric's Contract from August 1st to January 1st, Bruce seconded the motion. Motion Passed unanimously.
- Jean Saveraid moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, Mark Doty seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Deidre

Checking/Savings

PLC Checking Account

Benevolence	465.00
Building Addition	81.22
Building Improvement	1,732.49
Confirmation	1,170.55
General Fund Checking	4,212.48
Rock Group	25.00
Technology Fund	1,300.00
Total PLC Checking Account	\$8,986.74

Total Checking/Savings \$8,986.74

- Kristin moved to approve the \$81.22 from Building Additions to General Fund. Laura Kepler seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Laura Kepler moved to have the Thrivent Choice funds to the General Fund Tim seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Kristin Shelton moved to approve treasurer's report, Bruce Hartman seconded it. Motion passed unanimously

Pastor's Report -- Pastor Klimpel

- See his report

Unfinished Business:

1. Update on screens.
 - Looking to get them up after Easter and before Vacation Bible School.
2. Update on music ministry/director
 - Mindy is interested in the position starting in the fall of 2016.
3. Parsonage - Kitchen Discussion
 - Discussion – Priority – Kitchen is a higher priority than the parsonage at this time. Tim Wilson stated that snow is warmer than the north kitchen wall.
 - We need to get the kitchen committee back together. Jean Saveraid and Kristin Shelton will get the kitchen committee reestablished.
 - What are the next steps for the Parsonage and Ballard Creek relationship?
4. Membership rolls update. – Cynthia
 - Completed

New business:

1. Simple lent meal - for Feb 17th.
2. Discussion and approval of offering for Easter and Lent.
 - Support Water 2 Thrive. Support funding the installation of water well in Tanzania
 - Jacob Huxford moved to approve giving our Easter and Lent offering to Water 2 Thrive. Jeff Van Pelt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Appoint audit committee. 3 people NOT on council.
 - Tabled until next month
4. Need (4) new mutual ministry members. Past presidents?
 - Tim Wilson, Mike Larson, Lyle Martin, Brad Lewis, Helen Kepler (Tim said she will stay on), reach out to find one additional member
 - Kristin moved to approve the five above members of the Mutual Ministry, with the addition of one member, Bruce seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously
5. Approve moving Building Addition balance back to General Fund.
6. Celebration/mortgage burning for paying off addition.
 - At the end of the Sunday school year.
7. Committee meetings. Need to determine chairs, etc.
8. Discuss priorities for upcoming year. Screens, Music Director, Kitchen, Parsonage, others?
9. Next town hall meeting?? Topic? – After Easter sometime.

Jacob moved to adjourn meeting, Mark seconded.

Motion passed unanimously

Adjourn with Lords Prayer

Next meeting: March 6th, 2016 at 8:00am

March Devotions: Jean Saveraid

Operational Committees 2016

Cemetery Committee

Omar Brendeland
Ken Larson
Richard Nelson
Garry Wirtz
Leonard Larson
Merle Brendeland

Christian Education

Julie Emerson
Christa Hartsook
Julie Huxford
Kristin Shelton
Michelle Siepker, chair
Erika Williams

Evangelism/Fellowship Committee

Robin Doty, chair
Bruce Hartman, secretary
Roger Moore
Kristin Shelton
Jeff Van Pelt

Library Committee

Doreen Blackmer
Laura Kepler
Teri Klimpel
Sue Larson
Deb Moore
Shannon Wilson

Memorials & Gifts Committee

Nancy Fausch
Jean Saveraid
Cindi Thomas
Deidre Qual (advisor)

Mission Outreach Committee

Joyce Carlson, chair
Jim Gotta
Nina Gotta
Deb Moore, secretary
Bob Snider

Property/Parsonage Committee

Lowell Elliott
Jim Gotta
Bill Harleen
Greg Hartsook
Mike Larson
Ron Locker
Tracy Sheldahl

Stewardship Committee

Brad Lewis
Tom Shelton
Mike Thomas
Lora Young
Dick Kepler (financial sec'y)
Deidre Qual (treas, advisor)

Worship Committee

Mark Doty
Brent Emerson
Teri Klimpel, secretary
Roger Larson
Donna Millang
Holly Twedt
Jean Saveraid
Jeannie Williams, chair

Coordinators

Greeters – Chris Nelson

Ushers – Roger Larson

Offering Counters – Jeannie Williams

Lectors – Brent Emerson

Communion Assistants –

Donna Millang

Fellowship supplies – Jean Saveraid

Prayer Chain – Sue Larson

Milestone Ministry –

Katie Madsen

Palestine Piecemakers -

Cynthia Johnson, Louise Larson

Funeral Food – Doreen Blackmer

Committees 2016

Audit Committee

To be appointed

Executive Committee/Personnel

Committee

Matt Williams (pres)

Jeff Van Pelt (v p)

Jacob Huxford (sec'y)

Eric Klimpel (pastor)

Finance Committee

Deidre Qual, Chair (treas)

Mike Thomas

Allan Kopaska

Brad Lewis

Matt Williams (pres)

Dick Kepler (financial sec'y, advisor)

(stewardship chair, advisor)

Nominating Committee

Cindi Thomas

Holly Twedt

Christ Nelson

Deb Moore

Bruce Hartman

Lora Young

Staff Support/Mutual Ministry

Tim Wilson

Mike Larson

Helen Kepler

Brad Lewis

Lyle Martin

1 member TBD

Delegates 2016

SE IA Synod Assembly –

Joyce Carlson, Deidre Qual

Bethany Manor – Marge Sheldahl

Madrid Home –

Doreen Blackmer

Vallery Eisenmann

Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp –

Brent & Julie Emerson

Active Ministry Teams 2016

Altar Guild (worship)

Donna Millang, co-chair

Holly Twedt, co-chair

Melanie Fausch

Nancy Fausch

Helen Kepler

Teri Klimpel

Vivian & Del Lundgren

Pat Martin

Cindi Thomas

Banner Group (worship)

Sandy Harleen

Melinda Kam

McKenzie Shaffer

Bulletin Folders (worship)

Doreen Blackmer

Liz & Ordean Johnson

Marvin & Lorraine Sorensen

Pat Martin

Marge Sheldahl

Sandy Wirtz

Youth Council (Christian Ed)

Youth Liaison -

Nels Dovre

KICK advisors -

Jody Calvert

Lesia Lewis

Lori Schonhorst

Confirmation activity leaders -

Robin Doty

Jamie Ness

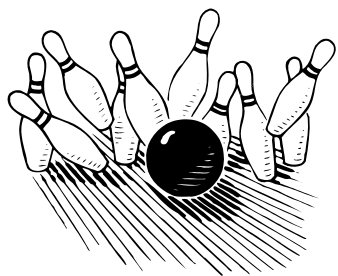
ROCK adult leaders -

Kari Sandquist

McKenzie Shaffer

Kristin Shelton, treasurer

ROCK officers



KICK will be going bowling Sunday, March 6th at Tiger Bowl in Madrid from 2-4 p.m. Cost is \$10 and includes pizza, shoe rental, and two

games! If you need a ride let Lori Schonhorst know 515-321-2833!



EASTER LILIES FOR EASTER WORSHIP

-Blumsters on Main in Huxley will be offering Easter lilies at a cost of \$15 (tax included). The plants will be delivered to church for Easter Sunday worship, March 27th. You may sign up for plants with Julie Huxford or Tracy Sheldahl in Fellowship Hall during Sundays in March. Please let them know (at the time you order) if you are placing the plant in memory of or in honor of someone.



First Communion classes

The first communion class schedule for March:

Sunday, March 6th – class during SS hour

Sunday, March 20th – after church

meeting with first communicants and parents with Doreen and Pastor to discuss what happens at Maundy Thursday service.

Wednesday, March 23rd – 6 pm Optional bread baking (for use on Maundy Thursday)

Thursday, March 24th – 7 pm Maundy Thursday worship: First communion for class participants

LOOKING DOWN THE ROAD –Vacation Bible School for 2016 is set for June 13-16 – stay tuned for opportunities to help with the day camp week. It will be back at Palestine Lutheran Church this summer.

We will again work in partnership with Fjeldberg Lutheran and it will be operated by Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp staff.



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

LWR Kit display in North Hall – Check out the display and information

regarding Baby Care Kits, Personal Care Kits and School Kits. We plan to ship some baby care kits in April with the quilts. See Oriett if you have questions.



The ROCK Group would like to thank all of those who attended the Annual Valentine's Dinner. Your constant support and encouragement of the high school students is over whelming. We are truly blessed to have all of you behind us in our endeavors!

Thank you
ROCK Group

To my family of faith at Palestine, Special thanks go to each of you for the many cards, greetings, and especially hugs that I received to celebrate my birthday. Each of you have been, and continue to be, a special blessing to me during my 95 years. You have been with me during times of joy, as well as times of sorrow. May the love and peace of God be with each of you.

Alvina Larson

Pictorial Directory



Pictorial directories have arrived! pick up your directory if you had your photo taken or submitted.



We will have **Easter New Life Group** sign ups beginning in March for the spring season.

New life groups are small group ministry which focuses on fellowship and relationship building as a Christian community.

Please consult the Usher's Table in the Fellowship Hall for more information and sign up

Remember in Prayer

The following were included in the Prayers of the Church during February: Anita Brendeland; Ordean Johnson; Diane Larson; Merlin Lyon; Deb Moore; Deidre Qual; Lorraine Sorensen; Bob Wetzler; Hunter Wise

- Krishna & his family of India, child sponsored by Palestine's Sunday School students.
- Those impacted by flooding, earthquakes, tsunamis, storms, tornadoes, drought & wild fires.
- Those impacted by terrorist attacks in Paris, Beirut, Egypt and elsewhere in the Middle East, in Nigeria, Kenya, Bangladesh & the Philippines.
- Syrian refugees.

We welcome the newest members of our family of faith...
...received by Holy Baptism on February 7, 2016, **Evelyn Sophia Kam.**

Evelyn is the **daughter** of **Jason** and **Melinda Kam.** Her baptismal sponsors are Brian Harleen and Cristen & Brian Harmon.

We welcome her into the Lord's family as a child of God!

We extend our prayers and sincerest Christian sympathy...
...to family and friends of **Anna Henryson**
...to family and friends of **Dan Engler** (father of Ben Engler)
May the risen Lord give his strength & comfort to these families in their time of loss.

Milestone Ministry Coordinator

We are pleased to announce that Katie Madsen is our new Milestone Ministry Coordinator.
As Katie begins, we want to take this opportunity to thank Erika Williams for serving as Milestone Ministry Coordinator for the last several years, indeed since this ministry was formed in 2008.

New Member Classes

New Member Classes will be held after Easter – starting Sunday, April 3rd.

COMMUNITY EVENTS - Check bulletin board & counter in Fellowship Hall for additional announcements & information.

Madrid Home Annual Meeting Thursday, March 17 – dinner at 6:15, meeting at 7:30

Spring Brunch & Bake Sale Sunday, March 20 (watch & listen for more details)

Friends of Madrid Home – membership available at Madrid Home for \$5



March Birthdays

- 1 - Kaedence DeVries
Jeannie Williams
- 4 - Benjamin Ewing
Grace Johnson
- 5 - Samantha Harmon
Dave Mueller
- 7 - Mark Doty
Ruth Hennick
Andrew Larson
Aiden Lewis
- 10 - Brad Lewis
- 11 - Joyce Carlson
Marvin Edwards
Chad Elliott
Lucas Hartsook
Sidney Jamison
Katie Porter
- 13 - Madeline Sheldahl
- 17 - Tegan Nielson
Rebecca Snider
- 18 - Tylan Siepker
- 19 - Addy Siepker
- 20 - Brittany Young
- 21 - Blake Edwards
- 22 - Kevin Kopaska
Chris Nelson
Austin Wirtz
- 23 - Doreen Blackmer
- 24 - Nicolas Schonhorst
- 25 - Jessica Blackmer
Garrett Porter
Paul Porter
- 26 - Teresa Smith
- 28 - Erika Williams
- 29 - Brent Emerson
Helen Kepler
Rick Sheldahl
Mae Wilson
- 30 - Tate Brendeland
- 31 - Liz Johnson

Severe Weather Policy: When school is canceled because of the weather, all church functions will also be canceled. If weather hits when school is not in session, a message regarding cancellations will be put on the church answering machine (515/597-2620) and also on our church website www.plchuxley.com. We will notify the following radio/TV stations if worship or other events are to be canceled WHO, KCCI, KRNT, & WOI. For smaller functions phone trees will also be utilized.

Special NOTE: Please use your own judgment regarding traveling in severe weather conditions.



MARCH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

19 – Marvin & Lori Edwards

If your birthday or anniversary was not included or was incorrect, please contact the church office so we can update our records.

Monday, March 7, 2:00 p.m. Bible Study.

In the March issue of the *Gather* magazine we continue a four-session Bible study of an exploration of the book of Philippians, written by **E. Louise Williams** and the **Rev. Phyllis N. Kersten**, two regular contributors to *Gather* (and our former publication *Lutheran Woman Today*). Louise & Phyllis wrote the 1990 Women of the ELCA Bible study, "Companions on Your Journey." Phyllis, a retired pastor, lives in a suburb of Chicago, and Louise, executive director emerita of the Lutheran Deaconess Association, lives in Valparaiso, Ind.

CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP 101

Session 1 Confidence in God's Beginnings and Endings (Philippians 1:1-26)

Session 2 Servant-Shaped Soldiers (Philippians 1:27-2:18)

Session 3 Being of One Mind (Philippians 2:19-4:3)

Session 4 Keep On Keeping On (Philippians 4:4-23)

In this section of Philippians, Paul presents positive examples of those who have "the same mind" as Christ and care about others' interests, more than their own. He also gives counter examples of those who live as "enemies of the cross." He twice urges the church in Philippi to "be of the same mind," and reminds the Philippians that they are "dual citizens," not only Roman citizens, but "citizens" also of heaven.

Goals/Objectives for Session 3 are:

recognize the positive and negative examples Paul gives of those who have "the mind of Christ" and care about interests other than their own.

appreciate the additional ways in which Paul and members of the Philippian church have shared in the work of the gospel.

explore opportunities to live out our "heavenly" citizenship on earth.

The theme for the March 2016 *Gather* magazine is **CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP 101**. Paul challenges us to be of one mind, sharing in the work of the gospel, caring about interests other than our own, and living out our "heavenly" citizenship on earth.

International Women's Day

On **Tuesday, March 8**, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) will be joining millions around the world to **celebrate International Women's Day** and the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.

We celebrate this day knowing that the work toward gender equality still remains. Through ELCA Global Church Sponsorship's International Women Leaders initiative, we are boldly investing in the education and future of women. Women in countries like Malaysia, Suriname and Mexico have been called to lives of ministry and leadership. Through this initiative more than 200 women from ELCA global companion churches will receive scholarships and education opportunities. Together, we can help them respond to God's call with a resounding "Yes!"

Please join ELCA members across this church in celebrating and supporting our sisters across the globe on March 8, International Women's Day.

Here's what you can do:

Pray for an awakening to the expansive power and capacity our sisters have in transforming the world.

Share Inspire women across the globe by sharing the difference education has made in your life and the lives of our church members. Share stories on March 8 on Facebook or Twitter using #ELCAWomen.

Give to invest in the education of women. Donate online or mail to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
ELCA Gift Processing Center
P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Make check payable to "ELCA Global Church Sponsorship" and note "International Women Leaders GCS5000" on the memo line.

The Lutheran – The current issue of the Lutheran is available on the table under the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Coming up in the March edition of *The Lutheran*:

All are welcome. What does this mean? Do ELCA congregations really welcome all? Well, it's complicated. In its March issue, *The Lutheran* hears from pastors and members who break down the not-so-simple concept of welcoming. One ELCA pastor says the "essential ingredient is old-timers." To help your discussion of the cover story, visit www.thelutheran.org and click on "Study guides" on the left-hand side.

Holy Saturday. In her March column for *The Lutheran*, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton reflects on that space between Good Friday and Easter. She says it can be seen as empty, something to be resisted, but it also beckons us from our life to a life in Christ. For other seasonal reading, try "21st century's new-old-Easter" and reflect on "Out of the shadow."

Sin and more: *The Lutheran* is a resource for adult forums and individual study. In the March issue, discuss "Sin" with columnist Peter Marty, who says it's what keeps us from becoming the people God wants us to be. Go deeper into "Science and faith" and think about why both matter for churches. And read "Faith in the spaces" to think about how design welcomes children and families (to help your discussion of this article, visit www.thelutheran.org for a study guide).

Camps, radio & tutors. In the March issue of *The Lutheran*, **discover** what Bible camp staff do during back-to-school months ... **hear** how a radio show brings laughter and people into a Minnesota church ... **learn** how ELCA congregations are helping out Flint, Mich., residents with donations of water ... **take** a look at the experiences of women pastors in the ELCA ... **visit** a youth tutoring program in Chicago ... and **travel** to South Sudan, where a new church is bringing hope and healing.

Changes are coming. The March issue of *The Lutheran* will be the last under this name. Beginning with the April issue, the magazine will be called *Living Lutheran*. A new accompanying website, www.LivingLutheran.org, will also debut in April. You can continue to expect some regular features found in *The Lutheran*, along with new departments. The website will offer content original to it, such as blogs and breaking news. For more, see the "Editor's notes in the March issue of *The Lutheran*." Call 800-328-4648 to subscribe to *Living Lutheran*.

Coming up in future issues of *Living Lutheran*:

- **April cover story:** Uncovering our appreciation for the gift of water, a life-giving commodity.
- **"God's work. Our hands":** Pennsylvania congregations put together worship kits for children with autism during service day.
- **United:** Lutheran and Methodist congregations in Oregon merge.
- **Employment:** How pastors supplement their income with unique jobs.
- **History:** A journey from *The Lutheran's* past to the present.



March is National Professional Social Work Month

March is National Professional Social Work Month, a time to recognize social workers and thank them for all they do. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we're grateful for our many social workers who have dedicated their lives to serving their communities!

Maybe you've never had a social worker involved in your life. Yet, whether you realize it or not, you've had the benefit of their behind-the-scenes work in your community. Social workers help people help themselves in overcoming life's most difficult circumstances or managing challenges of everyday living: poverty, abuse, mental illness, depression, addiction, disability and many other situations.

Thank you to all of Iowa's social workers, especially those at LSI. We're proud of you.

LSI is proud to be an affiliated social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

A Stable Home for Angela

When she was little, Angela was placed in Iowa's foster care system and was later adopted.

"I always wanted to have more children," said her adoptive mom Brenda. "We had done respite for Angela, and when she needed an adoptive home, she came to live with us. She fit in with us and knew us. It was an easy transition."

It was made even easier since Angela had Peggy by her side. Peggy is a social worker for Lutheran Services in Iowa's (LSI) behavioral health intervention services (BHIS) and helps children with a mental health diagnosis learn skills such as coping, anger management or healthy decision-making.

Over the years, Peggy has been there for Angela during times when she needed help building some new skills.

"Peggy helped me learn how to calm myself," Angela said. "I learned how to use running to do that, and I like to read. I cope better now. I know when I'm angry or upset."

Seeing young people like Angela thrive is what Peggy loves best.

"It's my brand of social work to support people over the years and watch them grow," she said. "Angela has done the hard work of staying strong throughout her losses, letting others get closer to her and focusing on what is good in her life. She has vast potential! She has had caring people all along the way, and Brenda was just the angel she needed to adopt her. What a beautiful thing for me to be a part of."



3001 Riverside Rd, Story City, IA 50248

1-800-372-7748

rlbc@riverside.org

www.RiversideLBC.org

"To Know Christ and to make Christ known to all."

Upcoming Events in 2016:

March 4-6 – Marriage Retreat

April 2 – Juniors Blast

April 9 – Junior High/Senior High Blast

April 9 – Gala

April 11 – Partner Dinner

April 30 – Volunteer Work Day

May 7 – Lil Cowpoke

May 14 – Volunteer Work Day (rain date)

May 25-27 – Leadership Training

May 29-June 10 – Staff Training

June 9 – Program Review

June 12 – First Day of Camp

July 5-8 – Family Camp

Aug. 6 – Quilt Auction & 5K

Aug. 12 – Last Day of Camp

Aug. 26 – Golf Outing

Aug. 27-28–Mother/Daughter Ride with the King

Sept. 17-18 – Women's Retreat

Oct. 1 – Ride with the King (3rd – 5th grade)

Oct. 14-16 – Juniors Recharge

Oct. 21-23 – Junior High Recharge

Nov. 4-6 – Junior High Recharge

Nov. 18-20 – Senior High Recharge

Dec. 4 – Riverside Christmas Party

Riverside Marriage Retreat: March 4-6, 2016

God's Word is powerful—it affects lives and marriages! Couples enjoy time together, as well as worship, skits by our program team, lots of fun, great food, fellowship, and laughter. The Marriage Retreat is a time to get away from our normal schedules, demands as being parents, housework, yard work, (shoveling snow), cooking, dishes, etc.! Take the time to be with your spouse in an atmosphere which encourages godly marriages, lasting relationships, friendships within marriages, and fellowship with others.

Housing Options & Fee

\$140 - Riverside housing - couples stay in individual cabins or rooms.

\$110 - Commute - sleep at home, or make your own reservation at a local hotel, and attend all of the programming at camp. Possible Story City hotels - Comfort Inn 515.733.6363 or Viking Inn 515.733.4306

*Fee includes all meals and programming

REGISTER NOW!

The Gala: 2016

Join us for another elegant evening of exquisite dining and auction fun at this year's Gala on April 9, 2016. This year's Gala will not be at Riverside, but rather the Holiday Inn Ames Conference Center at ISU. There will be music, food, and of course the auction. All of the proceeds raised at this great event will go towards the Living Water, Living Word capital campaign, which is funding the restoring of the Riverside chapel and the building of a new pool.

Evening Schedule: 6:00 pm - Hors d'oeuvres

7:00 pm - Dinner

Auction and Dancing to follow

Dress: This is a black tie optional event.

Registration: To register, please use the supporting events section of our online registration or call our office at 515.733.5271.

Entrance for the evening's festivities is \$100 per person. You may also reserve a table for up to ten people for \$1000. If you are unable to attend the Gala, but would still like to support this great event, we will accept bids on items at the auction over the phone until Friday, April 8 at 5:00 pm. Just call the office at 515-733-5271 & ask to speak with Dave McDermott or John Foster to place a bid.

Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp

Summer 2016: Released

Registration is now open for Summer Camp 2016! You can head over to our [website www.RiversideLBC.org](http://www.RiversideLBC.org) to learn more about all of our camp offerings, dates, theme, and what it is like to be a camper at Riverside! Riverside Times booklet available on table below bulletin board in Fellowship Hall which includes a registration form. At registration there is a \$125 non-refundable deposit.



We are excited to see what the Lord will do in the lives of our campers, families, and staff, as we see God's love "Released" into the world through Jesus Christ and now through us. Our theme verse comes from Luke 4:18-19 and says, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." We can't wait to dive into this passage and our theme of "Released" even more this summer!

Discounts

MEMBER CONGREGATIONS - Campers from member congregations will receive a \$15 per week discount. Palestine is a member congregation.

ATTENTION PALESTINE YOUTH & FAMILIES – To support youth involvement in church sponsored camps and activities, the congregation provides financial support. Palestine pays \$75 of the fee for Alpha Camp (1st timers) & \$160 for other campers at Riverside. Please check with church office for details.

SIBLINGS DISCOUNT See website for details