



The Palestine Press

January 2018

Volume XXXII Number 1
Monthly newsletter of
Palestine Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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Pastor Eric Klimpel
Nels Dovre, Youth Liaison
Oriett Snider, Editor
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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."

On the Road in 2018With Pastor Eric

"And asked him (High Priest) for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he (Saul) found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. – Acts 9:2 (The Way = Road = followers of Jesus)

When I first arrived in Iowa I was tentative about doing too much exploring around the area. I did not know where things were, or who I could fully trust in an emergency. I took the interstate most of the time when traveling Ames to Ankeny and as you might guess – to and from church. I reflect on this transition period at the beginning of winter because winter made any desire to go exploring mute.

Over time, I began to know more people, trust the community and slowly with my G.P.S. began to identify better where things are and relative distances. What really pushed me outward was living outside of Huxley and "road construction"! With the bridge closing and various areas in Ankeny and around Ballard under repair or improvement, I had to find new routes to take - down back roads and side streets. What is most notable to me was that these new routes which I thought that I would never take became more a normal part of my traveling day and continue to open new opportunities for me to learn, grow and trust.

I would like us to begin this year considering how our journey as a congregation has encountered seasons of "road construction" for repair and improvement. How might we see such times not as an inconvenience but as opportunity to explore ministry? We might begin thinking that we would never take another route until we wind up having to, or deciding to, only to discover that we love the new route even more!

This year I will be helping guide our leadership through a time-tested resource called, "The Annual Roadmap." This resource is a 7-step guide for setting congregational goals. We have new faces in the community who are longing to connect and build faith with us. My hope is that this process will help us together clarify our values, strengthen our identity, reveal our aspirations and opportunities, and allow for results that will help every ministry

and every family know God's work here with and through us.

John 14:5-6 – *"Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way (or road)?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way (road), and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"*

Let us pray. O God you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by roads as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

pects of what a safe environment for conversation looks like, in both the home and at church:

Thank you to everyone who participated in worship as readers, planners and service support over the Advent and Christmas season. I appreciate your time and talents in making this time a joyful and amazing witness to God's love and presence here.

Peace, Pastor Eric

A Big ROCK Thank YOU!

- ☆ The ROCK Group would like to thank the entire congregation for their continued support of the Christmas Extravaganza. Whether you baked cookies, came and bought cookies or prayed for our event all support is greatly appreciated! We were able to raise about \$1300!!
- ☆ Thank you to everyone that participated in the Angel Tree project this year. You helped to make Christmas brighter for several families in the Ballard community.

Thanks from the Confirmation Ministry

Thank you from the confirmation class for your support of our meal fundraiser following the Christmas program. We raised about \$684 that evening. We are looking forward to our trip next spring.

I invite you to an **orientation group event** on Sunday, January 14th after worship in the conference room (*see sign in fellowship hall*). At this event, I will present Palestine for the curious and wondering among us :) If you have questions and want to know more about the congregation, being Lutheran, being a participant, then please feel free to participate. I will present you with some information to consider along the way. If you can't make it this month, then it will be offered again the second Sunday of every month for those who are interested.

Peace,

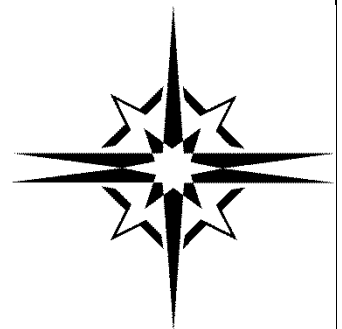
Pastor Eric, Palestine Lutheran



We will be welcoming new members into our family of faith, Sunday, January 14, 2018.

Epiphany

The predominant image of Epiphany is light, with its brightness and its warmth, good news for dark days and long, cold nights. The star over Bethlehem witnesses that Christ the light has come to those in all dark places of earth. They are called to a new life, a life of righteousness, obedience and discipline. Their dedication must be like that of Christ. God will forgive, comfort and protect them and bless their efforts.





Palestine Lutheran Church
Worship & Study Opportunities- January 2018

The "dial in" number for the worship service is no longer available and the leadership is considering a suitable alternative.

Wednesday, January 3

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

Thursday, January 4

6:30 p.m. GriefShare @ Ballard Creek

Saturday, January 6

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

Sunday, January 7 Epiphany of Our Lord

9:30 a.m. Worship: Holy Communion; We have a Star to Guide Us: Service for Epiphany; Blessing of the Church & Homes for Epiphany; Children's Church

Wednesday, January 10

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

Thursday, January 11

6:30 p.m. GriefShare @ Ballard Creek

Saturday, January 13

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

Sunday, January 14 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

9:30 a.m. Worship: Receive New Members; Children's Church

10:45 a.m. Orientation Group Event in Conference Room

Wednesday, January 17

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

Saturday, January 20

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

Sunday, January 21 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

9:30 a.m. Worship: Holy Communion; Children's Church

Wednesday, January 24

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

Saturday, January 27

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

Sunday, January 28 4th Sunday after Epiphany

9:30 a.m. Worship: ROCK leads worship; Children's Church

Wednesday, January 31

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible study

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

Daily Discipleship themes which will be used for Wednesday 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

January 7 Epiphany of Our Lord Sunday –

Primary Text: Matthew 2:1-12

No study available in Daily Discipleship

January 14 2nd Sunday after Epiphany –

Primary Text: John 1:43-51

An Attitude of Discipleship: *Inviting*

January 21 3rd Sunday after Epiphany –

Primary Text: Mark 1:14-20

An Attitude of Discipleship: *Responsive*

January 28 4th Sunday after Epiphany –

Primary Text: Mark 1:21-28

An Attitude of Discipleship: *Openness*

February 4 5th Sunday after Epiphany –

Primary Text: Mark 1:29-39

An Attitude of Discipleship: *Serving*



Re:Vitalize

Join others from congregations around the Southeastern Iowa Synod for a day of workshops given by real people making a difference in their community. Get ideas. Be inspired. Renew the church.

Workshops vary in scope from worship and arts to hunger and multi-cultural ministries to practical how-tos of moving a congregation in the right direction. In addition to the workshops there will be opportunities to network, worship, and fellowship in a day that reminds us that we are #inthistogether for the sake of the world.

February 24, 2018

9 a.m.-2:30 p.m

First Lutheran Church - Cedar Rapids, Iowa
 Cost: \$25 per person, includes lunch, with discounts for groups of 4 or more from the same congregation. For more information contact Rev. Erika Uthe, uthe@seiasynod.org.



ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 28, 2018 – 10:45 a.m.

“God is at work through the people of Palestine Lutheran Church! Thank you for your faithfulness and service. Thank you for your kindness and expressions of Christ’s love. May God bless you richly in the New Year!”

taken from a previous annual report

The Annual Meeting gives us the opportunity to review the last year at Palestine and to look forward and plan for the future.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 28 immediately following church (10:45am). A meal will follow, watch for details regarding the meal.



Deadline for submitting annual reports is January 2 to be sure copies of the report will be available to be picked up on January 21st.

Thank you...

...to everyone who had a part in making the 48th Annual Senior Member Christmas Event special Sunday, December 3 – Nels & preschool thru 6th grade students for providing music & the KICK group for the ornaments they made, those who made the delicious food & served it and also thanks to our super seniors that were able to attend.

...to the KICK group for organizing Christmas Caroling December 13.

...to the KICK group for a special Christmas Program – “Manger Tales” which they performed December 17th.

...to the KICK advisors – Jody Calvert, Lesa Lewis and Lori Schonhorst – for all their work in making these events possible.

Church Office: 515/597-2620
515/597-2621

Fax number:

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 December 13, 2017

Checking Account \$ 7,629.14

General Fund - \$ 11,558.95

Designated Funds \$ 19,188.09

Benevolence 655.00

Building Improvement 3,415.00

Technology 3,384.00

Kitchen 2,525.00

Parsonage 4,293.03

Confirmation 1,574.77

Evangelism/Fellowship 447.37

ROCK 289.83

Piano Fund 2,454.09

PLC Checking Acct-Other 150.00

Principal balance for building improvement loan \$ 7,687.75
(as of December 13, 2017)

Next Council Meeting – January 7, 2018 – 8:00 a.m.

Church Council 2017

Pastor Eric Klimpel

President: Matt Williams Vice President: Jeff Van Pelt

Secretary: Jacob Huxford Treasurer: Deidre Qual

Financial Sec’y: Dick Kepler

Council: Nels Dovre David Eisenmann

Bruce Hartman Cynthia Johnson

Laura Kepler Brad Lewis

Jean Saveraid Kristin Shelton

Lora Young



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.

Palestine Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Minutes

[not yet approved]

December 3, 2017- Sunday - 8:00 AM

In Attendance: Pastor Eric Klimpel, Matt Williams, Laura Kepler, Jacob Huxford, Lora Young, Cynthia Johnson, Jean Saveraid, Bruce Hartman, David Eisenmann, Jeff Van Pelt, Kristin Shelton, Brad Lewis, Nels Dovre, and Dick Kepler. A quorum was established.

Devotions – Brad Lewis

Read Vision and Mission Statements

Goals and Reflections – It's Christmas time! Be engaged and celebrate the true meaning.

Minutes of the previous meeting

- Nels Dovre moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, Jean Saveraid seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Deidre

November PLC Checking Account	
Benevolence	\$ 175.00
Building Improvement	2,070.00
Confirmation	1,837.94
Evangelism/Fellowship Committee	447.37
General Fund Checking	-13,565.40
Kitchen	2,500.00
Parsonage	4,505.37
Rock Group	289.83
Technology Fund	3,384.00
PCL Checking Other	150.00
Total PLC Checking Account	\$ 1,794.11

Bruce Hartman moved to approve the November Treasures Report, Lora Young seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

December PLC Checking Account	
Benevolence	\$ 445.00
Building Improvement	3,210.00
Confirmation	1,574.77
Evangelism/Fellowship Committee	447.37
General Fund Checking	-15,603.01
Kitchen	2,525.00
Parsonage	4,293.03

Rock Group	289.83
Technology Fund	3,384.00
PCL Checking Other	150.00
Total PLC Checking Account	\$ 3,170.08

Kristin Shelton moved to approve the Treasurer's report, Bruce Hartman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Pastor's Report -- Pastor Klimpel

- See his report.

New business:

1. Approval of baptism for Ila Joy Russell on Dec. 24th.
 - Brad Lewis moved to approve the baptism of Ila Joy Russell, David Eisenmann seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Annual meeting planning. Meal, etc.
 - o Annual Meeting Date: **January 28, 2018**
 - Kristin is reaching out to the ROCK Group to gauge their interest in providing the meal.
3. Council retreat. Date, topics, etc.
 - Sometime in the end of February – Shooting for February 24, 2018.
 - One day retreat – from roughly 9am to 4pm.
 - Location: Tentatively will be held at Riverside.
 - Retreat mission ideas: Road map (congregational goals) - any ideas are helpful.
4. Schedule finance committee mtg.
 - Will be held within the upcoming weeks.

Unfinished Business:

1. Nominating committee – Update
 - a. Members: Brent Emerson, Vallery Eisenmann, Julie Huxford, Doreen Blackmer, Mark Doty, Jeff Van Pelt
2. Kitchen committee – Update.
 - Laura from kitchens by design is planning on meeting with the committee during the week of December 11th, 2017.

Jacob Huxford moved to adjourn the meeting. Jeff Van Pelt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Adjourn with Lords Prayer

Next meeting – January 7, 2018 at 8:00am

Jan Devotions – Bruce Hartman

Jan Treats - Laura Kepler

"January is Souper Bowl month at the food pantry – please donate canned soups, crackers, and other soup-related items."

Sponsored by
Palestine Mission Outreach Committee

Looking Ahead

February 8 – Lutheran Day on the Hill
February 11 – Riverside Bible Camp Annual Meeting
February 14 – Ash Wednesday
February 17 – Riverside Daddy Daughter Dance
February 20 – Blood Drive @ Palestine
February 23 – Nurturing Hope in Bethlehem & the West Bank: A Day with the Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb and Bright Stars of Bethlehem @ Bethesda Lutheran Church, Ames
February 24 – Re-Vitalize – Synod Event in Cedar Rapids – workshops, worship, fellowship

Blessing for the New Year

O God, you have been our help in ages past, our hope for years to come. As we welcome this new year, bless us with peace. Fill our days with the light of Christ and lead us on the path of life until we see you in our heavenly home. You live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

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Blessing for a Home at Epiphany

Matthew writes that when the magi saw the shining star stop overhead, they were filled with joy. "On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother" (Matt. 2:10-11). In the home, Christ is met in family and friends, in visitors and strangers. In the home, faith is shared, nurtured, and put into action. In the home, Christ is welcome. The time after Epiphany offers an opportunity for friends and family members to gather for a blessing of the home. Following an eastern European tradition, a visual blessing may be inscribed with white chalk above the main door; for example, 20 + CMB + 18. The numbers change with each new year. The three letters stand for either the ancient Latin blessing Christe mansionem benedicat, which means "Christ, bless this house," or the legendary names of the magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar).

May peace be to this house and to all who enter here. By wisdom a house is built and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. (Proverbs 24:3-4)

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2018

Volunteer schedule

Greeters

1/7 Holly & Tim Wise (Hunter)
David & Vallery Eisenmann
1/14 Mike & Holly Larson
Ken & Louise Larson
1/21 Brad & Lesa Lewis
Matt & Michelle Siepker
1/28 Monica Ewing
Matt & Erika Williams

Acolytes –

Lectors -

Ushers

Roger Moore, captain Casey Huxford
Mark Doty Jeff Van Pelt

Sunday Fellowship

Families who greet also serve beverages for fellowship.

Communion Assistants

1/7 – Kristin Shelton and Kim Van Pelt
1/21 – Helen Kepler and Jean Saveraid

Offering Counters

Doreen Blackmer, Joyce Carlson, Jeannie Williams

Altar Guild

Teri Klimpel and Nancy Fausch

Snow Removal

▪ Sidewalks
Sign up in Fellowship Hall
▪ Drives & Parking Lots
Andrew Larson

Deliver Food Pantry donations for Jan

"

January



- 1 - Clark, Haylie
Doty, Reagan
- 3 - Engles, Ryan
- 4 - Schonhorst, Lori
- 5 - Sheldahl, Tracy
- 6 - Hartman, Sarah
- 9 - Hartman, Angie
Klingbeil, Kent
- 11 - Rhoads, Tracy
- 12 - Elliott, Lowell
Friedrichsen, Tom
- 13 - Larson, Missy
- 14 - Sheldahl, Mollie
- 15 - Cast, Richard
- 17 - Stowe, Deb
- 18 - Hartman, Bruce
Williams, Kevin
- 20 - Huxford, Casey
- 22 - Johnson, Cynthia
- 25 - Anderson, David
Larson, Colton
- 27 - Kopaska, Melissa
- 29 - Rittgers, Harold
- 30 - Christiansen, Elinor
Johnson, Tyler
Lewis, Lesa
McKinney, Judy

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

Celebrating Their ANNIVERSARY

JANUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 – Pastor Eric & Teri Klimpel
- 8 – Marvin & Lorraine Sorensen
- 27–Tom & Cindy Friedrichsen

Remember in Prayer

The following were included in the Prayers of the Church during December: Anita Brendeland; Joan Carson; Elinor (Anderson) Christiansen; Logan DeHaven; Kim Fears; Bruce Hartman; Merlin Lyon; Kris Polich; Lorraine Sorensen; Mackenzie Tallman; Arlene Wee; Randy Young.

- Those impacted by hurricanes, flooding, earthquakes, tsunamis, storms, tornadoes, drought & wild fires.
- Those impacted by terrorist attacks around the world & also here at home.
- Syrian refugees.

Upcoming changes at the Madrid Home



Two significant changes are on the horizon for the Madrid Home. First, after 21 years of service, Madrid Home Communities President and CEO, Keith Kudej, will be retiring at the end of the year (2017). Keith has done a wonderful job of

leading the Madrid Home and keeping it competitive and relevant in the face of increasing competition for long term care residents from much newer facilities. He has always maintained that the people are the most important thing in the Madrid Home Communities and that all should be served and treated with Christian compassion. A celebration for his many years of service will be held on January 5th from 4-7 in the Pedretti Room at the Madrid Home.

Second, in order to be able to continue to provide quality care and have the financial means to keep up with facility and technology updates, the Madrid Home Communities will be entering a partnership with Western Home Communities based out of Cedar Falls, Iowa. Western Home Communities has been providing long term care since 1912 and has several other senior living facilities as well as a home care organization. They were chosen as a suitable management company because they have similar Christian values, are non-profit and are demonstrated leaders and innovators in senior services. Residents and employees of Madrid Home Communities can expect to see the same compassionate care for residents and an on-going emphasis on valuing human assets as has been seen in the past at Madrid Home Communities.

If you have questions or concerns regarding these transitions, please see Vallery Eisenmann or Doreen Blackmer, our delegates to the Madrid Home.

**PALESTINE WOMEN OF ELCA Bible study
on winter break in January**

In the January/February Gather magazine we begin the [Winter 2018 Bible study: Multiple meanings: Learning from other interpretations by Mark Allan Powell](#)

January/February:

Session one—Washing hands with distant hearts (Mark 7:1-12)

Session two – Prepare the Way of the Lord (Luke 3:3-17)

March: Session three – The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37)

April: Session four – The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-20)

Session one: Washing hands with distant hearts (Mark 7:1-12)

When we read or listen to Scripture, we identify with different characters in the Biblical story to discern what the story means to us. In this session, we explore this phenomenon, as well as Mark 7:1-12, which some people interpret from the perspective of the disciples, some from the perspective of the Pharisees and others from the perspective of Jesus.

Gather, the magazine of Women of the ELCA, offers a mix of articles, theological reflections, devotions and stories of comfort and challenge that help readers grow in faith and engage in ministry and action.

All print subscribers receive 10 issues per year (with combined issues in January/February and July/August), along with free access to the digital edition via a computer, tablet or smart phone. Print or digital subscriptions cost \$19.95 per year – additional information available online.

The January/February 2018 edition celebrates 30 years of publication. It focuses on the fact that scripture speaks to us in unique, profound ways – and that is a good thing.

When we become locked away from each other, into one choice or brand or interpretation or meaning, we tend to forget that God is all about variety. Like the Pharisees in session one of our four-part Bible study series, we get stuck on the handwashing instead of the law of love that should be written on our hearts. We forget that we, too, have biases.

So this year, let's strive to remember, as our Bible study author, the Rev. Mark Allan Powell writes: "The word of God is both law and gospel – and sometimes it is both at once. ...Bible stories often mean different things to different people." That teaches us a lot about life.

Community Events - Check bulletin board & counter in Fellowship Hall for additional announcements & information.

**Nurturing Hope in Bethlehem
and the West Bank**

A Day with The Rev. Dr.
Mitri Raheb and Bright
Stars of Bethlehem



Friday, February 23, 2018

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Bethesda Lutheran Church,
Ames, IA

\$25 Registration Fee includes lunch
Free-Will Offering will be received for Bright Stars of Bethlehem. The day will include keynote presentations from The Rev. Dr. Raheb, workshops and worship.

SNOW REMOVAL

Volunteers needed

1. Parking lots & drives
2. Sidewalks



Sign up sheets in Fellowship Hall.

?s check with Mike Larson

Special thanks to the many of you that have helped in past years.



This free event, sponsored by LSI and the three Iowa synods of the ELCA, is open to anyone who wants to learn more about citizen advocacy.

More information in this month's LSI article in this month's Palestine Press.



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

January 27 Mother Son Pizza Game Night

February 17 Daddy Daughter Dance

March 2-4 Marriage Retreat

April 7 The Gala

Apr 8-75th Anniversary Celebration

April 14 Spring Blast (grades 2-6)

April 21 Spring Work Day

April 27-29 Men's Retreat

Mother Son Pizza Game Night January 27

Riverside provides this program to create a great way for moms and their sons to come to camp to play and just enjoy hanging out with each other. There is time to eat pizza, play games, and have plenty of fun. This event will be held at the Riverside Dining Hall from 5:00-7:30pm on Saturday, Jan 27.

Each year we have a special theme. Moms and sons are invited to dress accordingly! Check back later for the theme of the night.

You can register online or by calling the office at 515-733-5271. Watch for details – we will have a great night planned again!

Who: Moms (or grandmas/aunts/friends) and their sons

What: Pizza, games, and fun!

Where: Riverside Dining Hall - 3001 Riverside Rd. Story City, IA

When: Saturday, January 27 from 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm

How Much: \$10 per person with a \$30 maximum per family

Daddy-Daughter Dance February 17

Every daughter is a princess of the King! Sparkles will be everywhere, all around the lit-up dining hall, as well as on lots of sparkly dresses and many, many sparkly eyes as the daddies and their princesses dance the night away! What a joy it is to watch 200+ daddies and daughters swirling and twirling, laughing, and enjoying each other to the fullest! The evening is filled with dance music by a DJ, snacks, and pictures. Dance instructions for group dances are included with the night.

Daddies, plan to bring your princess(es) to the Riverside Dining Hall on Saturday, Feb 17, 2018 from 6:00-8:00 pm! Let's treasure those daughters of all ages!

Registering online or calling the office ahead of time is very helpful; however, walk-ins are welcome.

Who: Dads (or grandpas/uncles/friends) & their daughters

What: Dancing and Snacks

Where: Riverside Dining Hall - 3001 Riverside Rd. Story City, IA

When: Saturday, February 17 from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

How Much: \$5/ person with a \$20 maximum per family

Marriage Retreat March 2-4

God's Word is powerful and we believe it affects lives and marriages! Throughout this weekend, couples will enjoy time together with rest, worship, creative skits, laughter, time with our speakers, lots of fun, great food and great fellowship.

Meet our Speakers, Jeremy and Briget Johnson.

Jeremy and Briget Johnson were called to Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines in 2009. What started out as a yearlong internship has turned into a wonderful call that God has placed on their lives. Jeremy serves as an Executive Pastor at Hope, focusing on preaching and overseeing many ministry areas. Previous to coming to Hope, Jeremy was an English teacher and worked in youth and young adult ministries in ND. Briget is heavily involved in many different ministries and activities that allow her to serve women and children. Life is busy with parenting, work, family and friendships. Jeremy and Briget have found the importance of having their family be a priority in their lives. In their free time, they love hanging out as a family, playing and watching sports, running and working out.

PLEASE pray about coming to the Marriage Retreat! Bring some friends! Maybe you know a couple who would really like to come, but child care and/or money is prohibiting them. Can you help, or could you find help for them? The registration fee is a great GIFT to give for anniversaries! They will appreciate it!

Housing Options and Fees

\$150 - Riverside housing - couples stay in individual cabins or rooms.

\$120 - 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

Register by calling the office at 515-733-5271, or you can register online today! Couples arrive Friday evening and the retreat ends with a brunch on Sunday at 11:30. You DON'T want to miss this weekend!

The theme for **Summer 2018** is "Seek First" with our theme verse coming from Matthew 6:33! We pray that every camper who comes to Riverside this summer will seek first the Kingdom of God. Our desire is for those who already know Jesus to grow in their faith and see more of God's Kingdom around them and for those who have never heard the good news of the Gospel to begin a lifelong journey of walking in the Kingdom with Jesus Christ.

Our website currently has all of the dates and prices up for summer 2018 at Riverside. You can check your summer calendars to begin thinking about what week your child can come experience a life-changing week at camp.



Raising our Voice for Iowa Children and Families – Lutheran Day on the Hill

Families living in poverty. Iowa children in need of a forever family. Former refugees building new lives. These kinds of issues are rarely the center of attention at the Iowa State Capitol. Let's change that!

Please consider joining Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) and the three Iowa synods of the ELCA for Lutheran Day on the Hill, an annual day of advocacy in Des Moines to uplift the needs of our neighbors. The event will be held on Thursday, February 8. Visit www.LSIowa.org/advocacy next month for event details, online registration, and an online toolkit for your congregation.

If you are new to advocacy, come learn more about the legislative process and your role as a citizen. If you've attended before, join us again. We hope this year's schedule will also allow you more opportunities to connect with legislators. If you would like more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Friendly Competition

When the time came to take their U.S. Citizenship Exam, Bhakti and Chhali felt overwhelmed.

Originally from Bhutan, the couple moved to Des Moines from a refugee camp in Nepal. Since then, they have been busy improving their English and settling into their new home. They both worked seven days a week and struggled to find time to study for their exam.

LSI's Refugee Community Services were there to help. LSI provides English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, and Bhakti and Chhali studied hard in class to prepare for the writing and reading component of their exam. They supported and competed with each other, pushing themselves to succeed.

Their work paid off, and Bhakti and Chhali recently passed their exam and are now U.S. Citizens.

"We appreciate the help our LSI volunteers gave us on the Citizenship Exam," Bhakti says. "They are so committed to seeing us meet our goals."

Thank you for empowering your Iowa neighbors. We couldn't do this important work without you!