

# 2019 Mission Support Overview



*Where do our resources go in support of our mission?*

## 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.

Together we walk the path of discipleship through these seven areas of ministry.

## 1. Property (place to be nourished) 18% of Investment

Every family needs a place to gather and call "home." Early Christians used to meet in the homes of church elders and today we are blessed to have a dwelling dedicated to our Palestine Lutheran Family. Along with maintaining our facility we are charged to steward its purchase and ensure a safe place to meet, worship and provide hospitality. Our facilities are well known and placed by the interstate which provides a safe landmark to meet while traveling or to exchange greetings. Many times our parking lot has been used as a place for family connections.

Facilities require constant consideration as a place where all ages come to worship and promote community ministry. We reflect this stewardship responsibility as follows:

- 1.) Paying for necessary replacement or updating of facility structure and grounds
- 2.) Providing for clean water, waste management, and electricity for heat and light
- 3.) Security for building and grounds
- 4.) Staff dedicated to facility management – Maintenance, Custodian, Office Administrator, Pastor, Lawn and Snow removal
- 5.) Provision for weddings and family reunions, Palestine 4H group, Blood drive, recital site, kumla dinners, Lent meals, Easter breakfasts, Valentines dinners
- 6.) Maintenance of Parsonage for staff and support of internships for clergy in the area
- 7.) Technology updating for computers and office machinery to provide for internal and external communication
- 8.) Cleaning supplies and items required for ongoing maintenance

## 2. Worship (provide nourishment) 29% of Investment

The central part of our life together is our worship. Through our worship we give thanks and praise to God. We gather as a family around the table of grace in which we share stories, encourage one another, and receive the nourishment we need in hearing God's speak to us and eating a meal together of His very

Son, Jesus. Everything we are: our faith, our confession, our giving, our receiving and our healing radiates out into the world from this special family time with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Worship joins our community through:

- 1.) Weekly Sunday Worship and Children's church (preaching, prayer, sacraments)
- 2.) Holy Week services around the core of our faith
- 3.) Christmas Services
- 4.) Midweek devotional services for Advent and Lent in preparation and support of our faith journey together
- 5.) Life passage worship services like funerals, weddings and baptisms
- 6.) Occasional services of milestones like graduations, confirmation, blessing services for those who travel, healing and anointing services
- 7.) Worship extensions into meetings and fellowship like Holy Communion during Council meetings, small group devotion and community services with other congregations, visiting hospitals and people unable to gather with us.
- 8.) Support staff (*secretary, pastor, youth minister, accompanist, choir director*) who provides bulletins, slides for worship and updates to various media in support of worship, lead music ministry, children's music and message, lead worship and planning

### 3. Faith/Youth Education (*provide nourishment*) 15% of Investment

Faith must be passed from one generation to the next: "*Recite God's words to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.*" (Deuteronomy 6:7). Faith is a gift which is caught, as well as taught in the community. We gather together to model and disciple one another of all ages. We place the Holy Scriptures in the hands of a gifted people who are being equipped in the Spirit to use them to live out their faith and help others do the same.

Faith Formation and Education finds expression in our community through:

- 1.) Children's worship on Sundays with adults every Sunday
- 2.) Milestone Ministry – A way of faith formation and education that forms age level groups of youth and parents/adults who learn and grow together in weekly gatherings in service, fellowship and discipling in God's Word.
- 3.) Adult small groups and congregation studies (Daily Disciples, Seasonal Bible Study groups, WELCA gatherings, )
- 4.) Fellowship and prayer time for community-building in small groups – KICK Kids Ministry
- 5.) Summer experiences in faith and education: Vacation Bible School With Fjeldberg Lutheran, Summer Day Camp, Confirmation Trips, ROCK group trips
- 6.) Confirmation Programming (2-years) for faith development in early teens, ROCK youth ministry for High School, KICK Kids for pre-teens
- 7.) Support material for family devotions and education throughout the year
- 8.) Provide scholarships for education, camps and confirmation
- 9.) Established Library for resources and event planning for learning (book fair)

### 4. Mission / Outreach Ministry (*to reach out...*) 8% of Investment

*(Does not include Easter offerings and special offerings)*

As a community of faith, we are commanded to carry God's Word beyond our walls and into the world around us. We exercise our faith through service and grow in our relationship with God and one another while learning more about the hurting world and God's work in the world and our lives.

As a congregation, we support missionaries overseas along with our partners in the ELCA, Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, and synod benevolence support. We sponsor children through Compassion International, as well as local ministries for children to include Back Pack Buddies, Freedom for Youth, Ballard area food banks, and Meals for the Heartland. We provide support in local ministries of education and wellness like Riverside Bible Camp, Beloit, and senior care at Madrid Home, and Bethany Life communities. Our ministry includes ecumenical partnerships with the Ballard Ministerial Association in which we provide leadership to joint ministries of worship and community action throughout the year. Piece-makers provide quilts for various ministries throughout the world (Project Linus, Riverside Bible Camp, JOPPA, Lutheran World Relief, etc.)

Special Offerings 2019 – NAMI Mental Health Outreach, Iowa Gardening for Good, ROCK Mission Trip to Coasta Rica in the Summer

## 5. Fellowship/Evangelism (*provide nourishment to reach out*) 7% of Investment

We seek to gather into our community whomever the Holy Spirit calls us to, or sends to us on Sunday or any time we gather as a community of faith. We continue to learn about and offer hospitality in Jesus' name both in our community through care and prayer, and outside our community in workplaces, schools and neighborhoods.

Our service and intention towards invitation comes through:

- 1.) Fellowship time in small groups and Sunday morning gatherings.
- 2.) Welcome bags, community mailing and media
- 3.) Community events like Komla Dinners, Prairie Festival, Summer Picnics, etc.
- 4.) Maintaining media communication on-line and through publications

## 6. Church Office (Admin) (*place to be nourished*) 10% of Investment

God created us to manage what God has made. We have all the resources we need from God to accomplish our purpose in this life. Our community is the Holy Spirit's resourcing of God's purpose for us – which includes our time, our talent, our treasure and our self (personality and attitude). Our budget seeks to reflect these gifts and the responsibility to educate and equip those ministers in our community to joyfully serve the Lord.

Our stewarding of the mission finds expression in many areas of congregation life and impacts all of them:

- 1.) Time and Talent management, updating and providing scheduling through the office and social media (e-news, bulletin, website, face book)

- 2.) Counting ministry of offerings, along with software and labor to support financial reports and payroll for staffing
- 3.) Stewarding programs in time/talent and mission support
- 4.) Office management for scheduling and media production for worship
- 5.) Coordination of staff responsibilities and ministry needs
- 6.) Working with leadership on daily community ministries

## 7. Pastoral Ministry (provide nourishment to reach out) 13% of Investment

The calling to visit and provide support in times of crisis, or reflection especially in the midst of trauma and transitions in life – funerals, weddings, marriage challenges, children and baptism, elderly who are homebound, those families with health issues, hospital emergencies, grief counseling, divorce care. Staff is tasked to provide guidance, set examples and play a role in preparing the congregation to reach out to everyone in need of God’s presence for consolation and healing.

We steward this ministry in the following ways:

- 1.) Visitation by Pastor in times of crisis
- 2.) Provide meals and support for funerals and special needs
- 3.) Conduct staff coordination to inform and reach out when help is needed
- 4.) Promote and sponsor support groups like Griefshare
- 5.) Provide health relationships with other churches and groups in community
- 6.) Maintain an active prayer group for the community

### Note:

Many of these areas overlap and do not account for the resources of time and talents which accompany these areas of ministry. We have many congregation members who give “in kind” donations of supplies and personal time to shepherd these ministry in order to help other people grow and flourish in their faith.

These percentages combine the budget projections along with relative staff investment in each area as a percentage of their compensation. In church financial planning it is typical to have a large portion of the overall budget go towards staff.

### How do these results match up with our values as a congregation?

Property	18%
Worship	29%
Education	15%
Mission/Outreach	8% (plus Easter and Special offerings)
Fellowship/Evangelism	7%

Church office	10%
Pastoral Ministry	13%

**2% Synod Benevolence Support:** Prison Ministry, Seminary Leadership Programs, Iowa Hunger Fight, Campus Ministries, Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), Tanzania Missionaries, Lutheran Disaster Response (Hurricanes, Wild Fires, Earthquake relief), Synod staff