

The Palestine Press

May 2018

Volume XXXII Number 5
Monthly newsletter of
Palestine Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

(515) 597-2620, office
(515) 597-2624, secretary's office
E-mail address: PLC@huxcomm.net
Fax: 515/597-2621
Web site: www.plchuxley.com
Pastor Eric Klimpel
Nels Dovre, Youth Liaison
Oriett Snider, Editor
Christa Hartsook, Webmaster

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."

Reflecting on Easter Timing this Spring

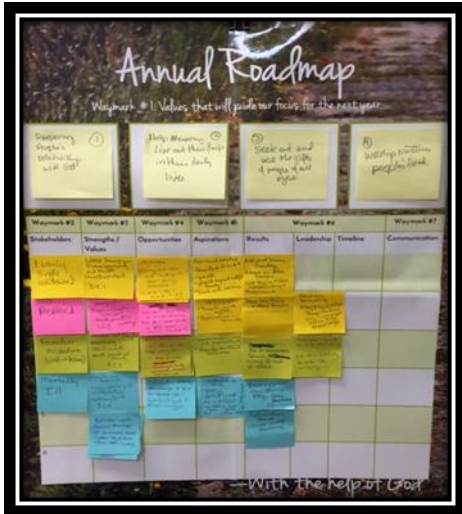
-----**With Pastor Eric**

Every Eastertide the Holy Spirit reminds me of what it means to live by faith. When Lazarus got sick his friends found Jesus and informed him (*John 11:4-7*). Jesus replied that he would get there soon. By the time he got there Lazarus was dead going on four days. Martha got a bit frustrated with Jesus about his delay (*John 11:17-22*). Likewise Jesus's disciples buried him in a stone tomb and then shut themselves up in an upper room for three days before Jesus appears to them very much alive (*Mark 16:1*). Now three or four days might not seem very long at first but consider the circumstances in both events – fear, death, trauma, grief. The anxiety grows for all those who are involved –suffering, maybe even tormented at the acute loss and sudden changes!

We are entering a season of beginnings and ending which we call spring. Spring is a turbulent time and shuffling schedules and emotional gatherings for graduations, journeys, relocations back for snowbirds, etc. It can be challenging to bear witness to the resurrected Christ among us at such times. Faith is a gift which we receive at baptism and gets renewed and strengthened over time by the Holy Spirit. Faith moves us to trust that God is active in our lives in ways that we might never see nor understand. Waiting on God does not mean that God is not present and busy creating life in, with and for us. God knows better than we do that change takes some adjustment for us humans and as much as we might want it now that we are neither ready nor sure about what we truly "need" let alone "want" for ourselves, or others.

This Spring take in the season with prayer for God's will to be done and pause now and then to remind your heart that God is present, active, and worthy of your trust. Just as Jesus promised to rise from the dead, and he did...so God promises to raise you up with Jesus in forgiveness and blessing every day. Amen.

The Annual Roadmap Overview Council Retreat 2018



Before the era of GPS (*global positioning systems*) we used to navigate using “*maps and charts*” in which we had to plan and trace routes ourselves and considers where to stop

for lunch or gas. I remember taking the highlighter and working through the atlas one city at a time. Many times it was not the destination alone that was the adventure but the journey to get there was the real adventure.

On Saturday, April 14th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. our congregation council had their annual leadership retreat. At this annual event we get a chance to learn about one another as council members and begin to work together on dreams and goals for the coming year. We gathered at Riverside Bible Camp in Story City during a questionable weather day and we began to discuss with Bible reflection, prayer and some “sticky notes” the route for our team and congregation for the next twelve months.

Our map for the journey consists of “*waymarks*” or guides for our traveling together – like road signs and mile markers on a highway. As we considered the routes, we determined first what values would guide our focus this year. The values are guiding principles that will help in decision making together. We will operate under four main values:

- 1.) **Deepening people’s relationship to God**
- 2.) **Help members live out their faith in their daily lives**
- 3.) **Seek out and use the gifts of people of all ages**
- 4.) **Worship nurtures faith life**

With these values in mind, we continued tracing our route by deciding who would be the focus of our

ministry this year. Everyone is valuable and important to the ministry of this congregation; however, we believe that some people might need some additional attention for the coming year – particularly, the elders who are retired, elders who are widowed/single, families with children, and those who live with mental illness. Our strengths as a congregation include the deep compassion and care for which we honor one another, as well as the diverse community in which we thrive and worship together. Our challenges include timing and hectic schedules for social events, and effective ways to bring awareness to the forefront. We do not accept these challenges as obstacles but as opportunities for interaction and relationship formation.

What empowers this council are the aspirations – that is, the deep hopes and dreams that motivate action – moving us from the usual expectations toward our group imagination of what God is up to here and now. We aspire to be a community in which people contribute to the life of the community and feel like they are a part of something fulfilling for their life and impacting the world especially one person at a time in love and for the good of others.

Like any journey we have our trip mapped out to some degree but God is the one who makes it all come together as is best for Palestine. We came up with two ministry ideas which we believe are not only measurable but are seed planting for the future growth.

1. **“Third Word” Ministry** – Comes from Jesus’ third word from the Cross - **“Jesus said to his mother: “Woman, this is your son.” Then he said to the disciple: “This is your mother.” John 19:26-27** - A ministry whose goal is to build relationships between individual families of all generations within the family created by Jesus at Palestine Lutheran Church.
 - a. **Prayer Partners** – Pray for each other, check-in regularly, celebrate times of joy (*birthdays, anniversaries*) and sorrow, be encouraged to invite into aspects of life (*sporting events, plays, etc.*), sit with each other in worship
 - b. **Service Events** – Be a part of serving opportunities with /for each other – share

your gifts of service together (*Mutual Service Events, God's Work our Hands Sunday*)

- c. **Table Fellowship** – Have a meal together at organized times by the congregation, and on other days when appropriate

Who will lead this? The council will partner with the Fellowship/Evangelism and Stewardship Committees to organize/implement each part of this ministry over the next 12 months.

2. **Accompanying families and individuals who live with mental illness with awareness, support and understanding.** We will seek to promote awareness about mental illness by inviting guest speakers into the community to educate and personalize the way of life for those living with mental illness. We will seek to engage local support ministries and agencies in order to learn more and interact with helping hands. We believe that our society is struggling to engage with the mentally ill and Jesus calls us to love, accept and encourage those who live with it.

Who will lead this? The council will partner with Mission/Outreach and Staff to organize and implement opportunities for awareness and support over the next 12 months.

3. We identified some additional areas in which we might support the relationship strengthening goals of this congregation: **a. Provide childcare options – training and support, b. Establish a list of drivers who are willing to give rides to individuals in need**

We closed our time together with a short council meeting and a prayer along with the desire to pursue God's will for Palestine Lutheran to the best of our ability and in faithful expectation of what we together will accomplish in the next 12 months.

We ask the congregation to pray our retreat closing prayer regularly as we seek to live out these goals, and thank you for your continued support and ministry:

O God you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths 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 our love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Palestine Lutheran Church

Worship & Study Opportunities- May 2018

The "dial in" number for the worship service is no longer available.



Wednesday, May 2

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

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

Saturday, May 5

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

Sunday, May 6 6th Sunday of Easter

9:30 a.m. Worship: Holy Communion; Final Children's Church this school year; Recognize teachers & Christian Ed Committee

Monday, May 7

2 p.m. Palestine Women of ELCA Bible study

Wednesday, May 9

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

6:30 p.m. Confirmation – final class this school year

Saturday, May 12

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

Sunday, May 13 7th Sunday of Easter - **Mother's Day**

9:30 a.m. Worship: Commissioning of Synod Reps for Synod Assembly

Wednesday, May 16

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

7:30 p.m. Ballard Baccalaureate

Friday, May 18 thru Saturday May 19

Synod Assembly

Saturday, May 19

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

Sunday, May 20 Day of Pentecost–

Wear Red to Church!

9:30 a.m. Worship: Holy Communion; Recognition of Graduates 2018

Wednesday, May 23

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

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

Saturday, May 26

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

Sunday, May 27 The Holy Trinity

9:30 a.m. Worship: Dedication of Memorials & Gifts

1:00 p.m. North Polk Baccalaureate

Wednesday, May 30

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



**Final Sunday for
Children's Church
this School year –
May 6.
Watch for details
for a **Celebration**
(game day) to be
held that Sunday.**

**Thank you for those who served as teachers for
Children's Church this past year.**

**Special thanks to the Christian Education Committee for
their leadership in the Education Ministry at Palestine.**

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

May 6th Sunday of Easter – **Primary Text:** John 15:9-17

The Path of Discipleship: *Directed by Love*

May 13th Sunday of Easter – **Primary Text:** John 17:6-19

The Path of Discipleship: *Rooted in Prayer*

May 20th Day of Pentecost – **Primary Text:** Acts 2:1-21

Choices of Discipleship: *Spirit-filled or Spirit-emptied?*

May 27th The Holy Trinity – **Primary Text:** Romans 8:12-17

Choices of Discipleship: *Heirs or Runaways?*

June 3rd 2nd Sunday – **Primary Text:** Mark 2:23-3:6

No Daily Discipleship study is available for this Sunday.

June 18-21 Vacation Bible School!

VBS will be held jointly with Fjeldberg Lutheran Church.

It will be at our site this year with staff from
Riverside leading the program. Get the date on your
calendar, more information will follow. Watch for
volunteer opportunities - If anyone has an interest in
helping with food, classroom chaperoning or planning,
please contact Michelle Siepker.



The theme is "Seek First," coming
from Matthew 6:33, "Seek first his
kingdom and his righteousness, and
all of these things will be given to
you." We pray that every camper who
experiences Riverside this summer
will come to know the great love of

Jesus and what it means to seek first after God and His
Kingdom. His way in every aspect of our lives. We will be
incorporating an "Around the World theme" to make it
even more realistic for the youth we will be impacting.

Registration materials will be available in May

Thank you -

...to the many who contributed items for **Soap for
Hope!** 300 lbs total of soap and toiletries were
gathered.

...to those who contributed to the Bucket Challenge
for ELCA World Hunger – the Water and the Witness.
We met our \$500 goal!

... to those who contributed to the Special Easter
offering for JOPPA. So far we have received \$ 1,520.
Thanks to the Piecemakers for their donation of 12
quilts to JOPPA.

... Thanks to the volunteers who staffed the Ballard
Clothing Pantry in March: Doreen Blackmer, Robin
Doty, Lori Edwards, Nina and Jim Gotta, Cynthia
Johnson, Louise Larson, Sue Larson, Donna and Dennis
Millang, Deb and Roger Moore, Chris Nelson, and Jean
Saveraid. (If you helped, but didn't sign the sheet,
"thanks" to you as well) For years, the month of
March has been Palestine's month to staff the pantry.
This would not be possible without willing volunteers.
The community salutes you, as does Palestine's
Mission Outreach Committee!

...to those who helped with the planning, preparation
and leading of our midweek worship services and
meals. A special thanks goes to Oriett Snider and
Mindy DeVries for bulletins and music through Lent
and Holy Week.

...to the many who helped in various ways to make
Holy Week special. This is a great time for working on
and thinking about what Jesus did for us. Thanks to
Doreen Blackmer for teaching and serving First
Communion. Nolan & Nick Schonhorst, Austin Klimpel,
Brayden DeVries for the Maundy Thursday drama.

...to all the readers who helped to proclaim the gospel
over Holy Week! Brent Emerson, Cheryl Blackmer,
Nels Dovre, McKenzie Shaffer.

...to the congregation for supporting the Confirmation
Class as they served Easter breakfast as a fundraiser
for their trip to Chicago this summer.

Everyone contributed in some way over Lent and
Easter 2018 and we thank everyone for their part in
ministry!!

We received an email: [Disability Ministries Spring Update](#) which appears in part below.



Where are the paths that lead to life?

What kind of road do you find yourself traveling today? How do you decide which way to go when another road crosses your path? You may choose a detour leading you to a road less traveled, or you may have the determination to take the straight and narrow, or you might travel down memory lane where you come to an intersection that causes you to pause and wonder, which way do I turn?

ELCA Disability Ministries is approaching a decisive crossroad. Several transitions have occurred in the past year, some of which include personal health, missional dollars and questions about our direction. In February 2018, Carol Josefowski accepted the position of ELCA Disability Ministries coordinator. So much of what we've accomplished at Disability Ministries stems from the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly's vote to empower Disability Ministries by accepting Brian Krause's \$4 million challenge to raise funds through *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for ELCA*. We are grateful for the roads taken, which have brought us to today. 2018 brings us to an intersection where our work can continue in the same manner or take a turn; yet, I believe through the Holy Spirit our ministry can proceed in many bountiful directions in response to what our church has called for: **God-enabled ministries**.

The Holy Spirit rests within each of us, waiting to be realized through our baptismal call, including our fellow church members with disabilities. We know God is able, and as we each admit with confession, "with God's help," we are able. What an awesome God we seek to serve alongside one another in this journey!

To learn more about ELCA Disability Ministries go to – <http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Disability-Ministry>

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 April 15, 2018

Checking Account \$ 21,998.95

General Fund - \$ 5,619.76

Designated Funds \$ 27,618.71

Benevolence 90.00

Building Improvement 2,070.00

Technology 3,384.00

Kitchen 5,650.00

Parsonage 970.65

Confirmation 2,927.62

Lent Offering 2,515.00

Evangelism/Fellowship 447.37

Piano Fund 2,454.09

ROCK 10.00

Maland Fund 6,999.98

Principal balance for building improvement loan \$ 4,907.75
(as of April 15, 2018)

Next Council Meeting – Sunday, May 6, 2018 at 8 a.m.

Church Council 2018

Pastor Eric Klimpel

President: Matt Williams

Vice President: Jeff Van Pelt

Secretary: Ellen Huxford

Treasurer: Deidre Qual

Financial Sec'y: Dick Kepler

Council:

David Eisenmann

Laura Kepler

Jean Saveraid

Tim Wilson

Nels Dovre

Cynthia Johnson

Brad Lewis

Kristin Shelton

Lora Young

The **2018 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly – *The Water The Witness*** – will be held Friday, May 18, through Saturday, May 19, at the Coralville Marriott in Coralville. There will be several elections taking place, including those nominated for the upcoming 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Congregational anniversaries will be celebrated. A new interactive center will focus on faith in action through participating in anti-hunger efforts, clean water initiatives, advocacy efforts and more. We hope you will join us for learning about our life and faith together through worship, keynote speakers, music and more. For more information visit our website at seiasynod.org.



As we quickly approach the Summer months the council would like to update you on the current budget and giving status.

Although the weekly giving since the first of the year has been keeping pace with budgeted expenses, we are still hovering around a negative (\$3,000) balance from month-to-month in the general fund. We also still owe about \$4,900 on the Building Improvement loan for the repairs made last spring. We want to be proactive knowing that giving typically slows down in the summer months due to vacations, etc. and ask that you prayerfully consider how you may be able to help meet the following goals.

1. Pay off the \$4,900 note for building improvements. This loan is due the end of June, and we would prefer to not extend the terms.
2. Get the General Fund back to being positive. This is primarily due to a couple missed Sundays over the last year and half and we just haven't caught back up. Continuing to run a negative balance may necessitate taking a loan out to cover monthly expenses and we would prefer to avoid this.
3. Consider signing up for EasyTithe. This will allow you to give your offering at any time from any place on a mobile phone or computer, or set up automatic giving. We have discussed that 'Every Sunday Counts' for giving in the church and this allows the opportunity to give even if you can't physically make it some Sundays.

Palestine continues to be an active and vibrant "haven for all generations" and continues to do God's great work! Feel free to contact me or any council members with questions.

Blessings,
Matt Williams-Council President

Palestine Lutheran Church Council Meeting

[not yet approved]

2:30 p.m.

Saturday April 14, Riverside Camp Story City, Iowa

Attendees: Dick Kepler, Laura Kepler, Deidre Qual, Cynthia Johnson, Brad Lewis, Matt Williams, Tim Wilson, Pastor Eric Klimpel. **Quorum not established.**

Approval of Past Minutes – Motion to approve Tim Wilson, Deidre Qual second.

Treasurer's Report – Tabled Report. Edward D Jones funds from the remaining Maland estate have been put in the Thrivent account. Now, all funds are in one account.

Pastors Report – See Report.

New Business

- Approve new members - Mark and Jen Pote, Dane and Casey Tatarniuk. Motion by Laura Kepler, Approved by Deidre.
- New tax laws will not be helpful for clergy taxes. To help with situation, Pastor would like to take \$2,500 out of salary, and move to housing allowance. Topic was tabled for next council meeting.
- Congregation member brought up the thought of having drink holders in the pews. Other members have mentioned idea of having better coffee options. Tim Wilson will lead committee.
- Need for catchup on general fund. Matt Williams will be putting a note in the newsletter on catchup of general fund, and due date of building improvement loan.

Parsonage – Discussion on future use of parsonage, now that potential renter for this spring will no longer happen. Matt Williams will be sending email to some churches letting them know of availability. Based on feedback discussion will take place at next council meeting to determine use.

Kitchen – Brad Lewis stated a plan has been completed for the committee review. Committee will be reviewing in the next week. Discussion took place on realistic goal of completion of kitchen. Goal would be to have approved plan by congregation around Memorial Weekend, with hope of work to begin during summer post VBS.

Adjourn with Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting May 6th 8:00 a.m.

Jean Saveraid Devotions, Laura Kepler Treats.

Motion to adjourn Tim Wilson, Second Laura Kepler

Minutes - Palestine Lutheran Church Council Meeting

[not yet approved]

March 25, 2018 Sunday - 8:00 AM

In Attendance Pastor Eric Klimpel, Matt Williams, Laura Kepler, Lora Young, Cynthia Johnson, Jean Saveraid, David Eisenmann, Brad Lewis, Dick Kepler, Deidre Qual, Kristin Shelton, Tim Wilson, Ellen Huxford

Devotions – Matt

Read Vision and Mission Statements

Goals and Reflections – Lent is going well.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Tim motioned to approve minutes of the previous meeting

Kristin Seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Deidre

February 10 PLC Checking Account	
Benevolence	858.00
Building Improvement	2,655.00
Confirmation	2,827.62
Evangelism/Fellowship Committee	447.37
General Fund Checking	(9239.41)
Kitchen	5,625.00
Lent Offering	494.00
Parsonage	970.65
Piano Fund	2,454.09
Rock Group	10.00
Technology Fund	3,384.00
Total PLC Checking Account	13,489.95

Lora Young motioned to move the treasurer's report
Jean Saveraid seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Pastor's Report -- Pastor Klimpel
Please refer to pastor's report

New business:

1. Approval of baptism of Hayley Gustafson
Kristin moved to approve baptism
Deidre seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Fellowship committee request-disposable dining supplies budget.
- It was suggested that Fellowship committee work with other groups to get a comprehensive list of what groups need (other than Bible School) and work to create a single supply for use by everyone. List could be put out to congregation to request donations for items rather than out of budget. Matt to discuss with Robin Doty.

3. Landscaping- Julie Huxford
Tim Wilson moved to approve the Landscape plan presented by Julie Huxford and Nancy Fausch per approval of the Maland fund committee in the amount of \$6,327.98 and up to \$7,000 to come from Maland fund.

Brad Lewis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously

Unfinished Business:

- Council retreat. April 14th - 9am-4pm at Riverside
- Transfer of Maland estate funds to Thrivent account. Matt will do this week.
- Review need for catch-up funds event. Review again after Easter.
- Parsonage update.
Nels- not moving until next Spring.
- Kitchen committee – Update.
Laurie's Kitchen Design (sp?) got back with a design and hoping to have meeting soon.

Adjourn with Lords Prayer

Next meeting – April 14th at retreat
April Devotions – Retreat
April Treats -

Kristin Shelton moved to adjourn meeting
David Eisenmann seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously



May Birthdays

1 – Elaine Paradise
2 - Nels Dove
Candi Engler
3 - Tim Huxford
5 - Dobbin Wilson
6 - Lucas Ness
Eisenmann

Joseph Thomas
10 - Shane Kalvig
Nicole Larson
11- Brooke Dykstra
Cory Larson
13 -Mike Thomas
15 - Ethan Johnson
Josie Van Gorp
Kris Polich

17 - Tom Gallagher
19 - Bill Harleen
Henry Larson
21 - Kelli Jo Emerson
Olivia Thomas
22 - David

Deb Moore
23 - Miles Gallagher
24 - Robby Keltner
Violet Sickels
26 - Nolan Larson
29 - Caden Van Pelt
Stella Klingbeil
30 - Isaac Larson
31 – Casey Tataruiuk

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



MAY

6 – Matthew & Erika Williams
15 – Richard & Bernadine Cast
31 - Joyce Carlson & Pat Murphy

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES

from **Ballard** – Sunday, May 27th at 2 p.m.

Blake Harmon

from **Nevada** – Sunday, May 27th at 2 p.m.

Jacob Larson

from **North Polk** – Sunday May 27th at 2:30 p.m.

Dominic Kopaska

H.S. Graduation Recognition at Palestine – Sunday morning, May 20th, we will honor our High School Graduates during worship and fellowship. Please come and offer them your support, prayers, and praise!



Baccalaureate schedule

Ballard: Wed., May 16- Ballard HS Auditorium –7:30 pm following Senior Celebration Night (6-7 p.m. in HS Commons)

North Polk: Sunday, May 27 at 1:00 p.m. – Salem UCC, Alleman.

If you know of others who are graduating from either high school or college this spring, please notify the office so that we can acknowledge this achievement.

Join Us In Celebration!

Graduation Open House for

Jacob Larson, Nevada High School Class of 2018

Saturday, May 19, 2018 5 – 8 p.m.

SCORE Pavilion

1543 Fawcett Pkwy, Nevada, IA



Volunteer schedule May 2018

Greeters

5/6 David & Vallery Eisenmann
Jim & Nina Gotta

5/13 Brent & Missy Larson
Tim & Shannon Wilson

5/20 Deb & Allan Kopaska
Pat & Lyle Martin

5/27 Tracy & Kyle Rhoads
Tom & Kristin Shelton

Acolytes –

to be contacted

Lectors -

5/6

5/13

5/20

5/27

Ushers

Virgil Larson, captain

Doug Schonhorst

Del Lundgren

Ashley Klimpel

Sunday Fellowship

Families who greet also serve beverages for fellowship.

Communion Assistants

5/6Laura Kepler, Lora Young

5/13Brent & Julie Emerson

Offering Counters

Doreen Blackmer, Joyce Carlson, Jeannie Williams

Altar Guild

Vivian & Del Lundgren, Holly Twedt

Mowing volunteers

Deliver Food Pantry donations for May

May is Health & Beauty month at the food pantry - please donate toothpaste, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes. Sponsored by Palestine Mission Outreach Committee



It's Spring and lawn-mowing season! We need volunteers to mow church and parsonage lawns. This is a good way for students to earn

service hours. Please sign up for a week or a month to help out. You may use Palestine mowers or your own. The church has a riding lawn mower if you would like to use it – indicate this on the sign up sheet in Fellowship hall. Thank you!

Remember in Prayer The following were included in the Prayers of the Church during April: Anita Brendeland; Joan Carson; Elinor (Anderson) Christiansen; Kim Fears; Jane Gordon; Dave Huinker; Ralph Kalsem; Sandy Kalsem; Alvina Larson; Merlin Lyon; Shannon Tope; Arlene Wee; Randy Young; Family and friends of Lorraine Sorensen, Tom Olson, Irma Elliott, Ruth Hennick, Greg Nordstrom.

- Our Compassion International child a 6 yr old boy Roberto Junior Perez Barreto in Columbia.
- 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.

We welcome the newest members of our family of faith...
...received by affirmation of faith, **Mark and Jen Pote, Dane and Casey Tatarniuk** on Easter Sunday – April 1, 2018.

We give thanks for these people whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

We extend our prayers and congratulations to...
... **Melinda & Jason Kam** as they welcome their newborn son, **Mason Steven Kam** (born April 1). He was welcomed to the family by sister, **Evelyn**. Proud grandparents include Bill & Sandy Harleen and great-grandmother Katherine Saveraid.



On Maundy Thursday, March 29, **Nicolas Schonhorst**, received his First Communion. We rejoice with him and his family and pray that he will remain faithful to Christ and to his Church, finding joy and strength in his body and blood, the signs of his love for the world.

A Note of Thanks -

Thank you for your many act of kindness. We are grateful for the many who included Lorraine and our family in your prayers. Thanks also for your continued prayers for our family. Thanks for the beautiful service, luncheon and piano music provided, flowers, food, cards and memories you shared about Lorraine.

The Lorraine Sorensen family
Marvin, Dennis, Kay, Sue, Kurt



MARK YOUR CALENDAR –

Southeastern Iowa Women of the ELCA 31st Gathering will be held, June 22-23 2018 at Windsor Heights Lutheran Church, 1240 66th St, Windsor Heights, IA 2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if any man will be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold all things are to become new." See the Spring Issue of Directions for additional information and registration form.

http://seiasynod.org/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2018/03/SWOSpring2018.pdf

Hotel Info: Days Inn-1258 8th Street West Des Moines– Phone-515-223-1212 There is a block of rooms reserved under: SWO-mention this when making your reservations, by June 4, 2018 to get the rate of \$80.00, plus tax per room. Maybe a bit higher for more in the room.

And like last year the Business Meeting will be on Friday afternoon. So, keep that in mind as you decide to be a delegate.

Gathering Love Gift

Windsor Heights Lutheran Congregation, together with a number of other congregations in the Des Moines area, participate in a program called "Family Promise of Greater Des Moines" and have chosen this for our Love Gift. The house that we use for our week to house and feed the participants is very much in need of a new refrigerator. We plan to ask for donations of money to purchase a new refrigerator. We will put out a box for these offerings at the gathering. This program is active in many areas of the country and has been serving communities since 2002. Here is their Mission Statement: The Mission of Family Promise of Greater Des Moines is "To mobilize our community to help homeless families achieve stable housing and income through compassionate care, hospitality and professional support.

Our key note speaker will be Kellie Markey from "Dorothy's House" a shelter in Des Moines for victims of Human Trafficking.

In the May Gather magazine our study is the Intergenerational devotional for 2018 by Julie A. Kanarr – “**Hospitality for all: All are welcome**” - a one-session devotional study. This study is perfect for individuals, congregations, outreach and evangelism committees, adult Christian education classes, building/facilities teams, and anyone interested in offering a wider welcome to those around us.



More than just “good manners,” hospitality is a spiritual matter. In welcoming and in being welcomed, we experience the love of

God who breaks down human barriers and draws us into community with one another. In this study we will explore several Bible passages that invite us to reflect on dimensions of hospitality within our own lives and congregations.

It’s easy to extend welcome to people who are similar to us, but how can we offer a welcome to all? At the heart of this year’s intergenerational issue, this devotional will explore how we can open our groups and congregations to diverse newcomers. Using examples of biblical welcome and hospitality, pastor and author Julie A. Kanarr will explore how we can define ourselves beyond ideas about age that can so often be damaging to women and encourage us to define ourselves as God does—through love.

The May 2018 edition of Gather focuses on the fact that in welcoming and in being welcomed, we experience the love of God.

LWR QUILT & KIT MINISTRY @ PALESTINE

Palestine Piecemakers work fall to spring on Wednesday afternoons producing beautiful **quilts** to send to LWR, Riverside’s quilt auction, JOPPA Homeless Services, Over-the-Road Midwest Ministries, Project Linus and local emergency use. In addition of the gift of time and talent making these quilts, others have generously donated materials and money to purchase needed supplies. The display of their handiwork and a dedication of LWR quilts was held March 25. 40 quilts were shipped last October. Additional quilts will be shipped to LWR on April 21. A more complete report of Palestine Piecemakers activities for the year will appear in next month’s newsletter.

A special emphasis is made to gather **school kits** when school supplies are on sale during July and August. Last October we shipped 43 school kits. We have various items as the beginnings of additional kits and bags waiting to be filled. Hopefully this will happen so we can ship them in October.

Items for **personal care kits** (formerly health kits) and **Baby Care Kits** (formerly layettes) can be brought at any time during the year. Give them to Oriett or place them on the counter in the choir room. We generally ship some of each these types of kits in both April and October.

Thanks for “Reaching Out in Christian Love to All!”

Sunday, May 6, is Rachel's Day: Justice for Children and Youth

— a time when we look at the needs of our children, especially needs for safety, security, and justice. One day is not enough. The goal of Rachel’s Day is to serve as a beginning, a place and time to move participants to actions. Think of ways you can continue to work on behalf of children within your community.



Many children today fear they will not grow up to be adults. They also fear drugs, guns, gangs, going home to an empty house, poor education,

illness, hunger, unsafe streets, that friends will kill themselves, being unloved, and being alone.

Rachel’s Day is an observance that started in one congregation — Bethel West in Chicago — and spread to a synod & synodical women’s organization.

In 1996, the first Sunday in May was observed as Rachel’s Day in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. The day took its name from Jeremiah 31:15–17. In those verses Rachel grieves for her children. Rachel’s Day is a time to mourn the loss of our children and to renounce the forces of evil and fear that plague our nation.

In July 1996, the Metropolitan Chicago Synodical Women’s Organization brought to the Women of the ELCA Third Triennial Convention a memorial asking all women to encourage their congregations to recognize the first Sunday in May each year as “Rachel’s Day.” The memorial was adopted.

What a wonderful way to build community and relationships by connecting adults (who may or may not be parents or grandparents) with children at risk. It is another way to remind us that, as the African proverb says, “It takes a village to raise a child.” We are all responsible for all children.



ENGAGE AT EVERY AGE: MAY 2018

Across the country, older Americans – a rapidly growing population – are taking part in activities that promote wellness and social connection. They are sharing their wisdom and experience with future generations, and they are giving back to enrich their communities. They're working and volunteering, mentoring and learning, leading and engaging.

For 55 years, Older Americans Month (OAM) has been observed to recognize older Americans and their contributions to our communities. Led by the Administration for Community Living's Administration on Aging, every May offers opportunity to hear from, support, and celebrate our nation's elders. This year's OAM theme, "Engage at Every Age," emphasizes the importance of being active and involved, no matter where or when you are in life. You are never too old (or too young) to participate in activities that can enrich your physical, mental, and emotion well-being. It also celebrates the many ways in which older adults make a difference in our communities.

Participating in activities that promote mental and physical wellness, offering your wisdom and experience to the next generation, seeking the mentorship of someone with more life experience than you—those are just a few examples of what being engaged can mean. No matter where you are in your life, there is no better time than now to start. We hope you will join in and Engage at Every Age!

MAY IS 2
MENTAL 0
HEALTH 1
MONTH 8
#4mind4body



May is [Mental Health Month](#). It was created in 1949 to raise awareness about mental health conditions and the importance of mental wellness for all. When we talk about health, we can't just focus on heart health, or liver health, or brain health, and not whole health. You have to see the whole person, and make use of the tools and resources that benefit minds and bodies together. That's why this year, our *May is Mental Health Month* theme is *Fitness #4Mind4Body*. We'll focus on what we as individuals can do to be fit for our own futures – no matter where we happen to be on our own personal journeys to health and wellness – and, most especially, before Stage 4. **Stay tuned for the #4MIND4BODY CHALLENGE this May!**

As part of our efforts this May, we'll be asking people to take the #4Mind4Body Challenge and join Mental Health America as we challenge ourselves each day to make small changes – both physically and mentally – to create huge gains for

our overall health and wellbeing. Each day a challenge of the day will be posted online.

Website: www.mentalhealthamerica.net/challenge

Facebook: /MENTALHEALTHAMERICA

Twitter: @MENTALHEALTHAM

Instagram: @MENTALHEALTHAMERICA

The challenges won't be very time consuming and are designed for everyone to be able to participate in, no matter what kind of shape you are in or where you are in your mental health journey.

Be sure to share your daily progress by posting to your social media accounts with #4mind4body. If you don't use social media, post directly to

www.mentalhealthamerica.net/4mind4body.

When the righteous call for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord rescues them from them all. He keeps all their bones; not one of them will be broken (Psalm 34:17-20).

More information and resources:

- [Mental Health America](http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/may) <http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/may>
- [National Alliance on Mental Illness](https://www.nami.org/) <https://www.nami.org/>
- **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 800-273-TALK (8255)**

Happy Mother's Day!

Mother's Day is a time to celebrate the strong, loving women in your life. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we see thousands of Iowa moms through their journey to build the brightest future for their children.

We see moms turning to LSI's Mental Health or Behavioral Health Intervention Services to ensure their child is receiving the coping skills & behavioral supports they need to thrive. In our Early Childhood Services, we see young first-time moms who are eager to join our parenting education classes & support groups. In 2016, LSI's Early Childhood programs provided support to 552 first-time parents. We are so inspired to hear their stories & see their hard work pay off as they raise our next generation.

As you celebrate Mother's Day this year, remember how many Iowa moms are being empowered because of your support. If you are looking for a way to honor your mother this year, please consider giving a gift in her name at LSIowa.org.

Thank you for standing alongside our Iowa families.

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 LSIowa.org and [Facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).

"LSI has been a Lifesaver"

No parent should feel alone or hopeless when it comes to caring for their children's health. But those emotions were common for Judy four years ago.

It started when her son began seeing a litany of different doctors & specialists. Judy needed to coordinate his many appointments & medications, but it was difficult to keep track while still caring for her three other children as a single parent.

Judy found LSI's Pediatric Integrated Health services, which were a shoulder for her to lean on. Judy's LSI worker, Wyndolyn, coordinated medical appointments & counseling sessions. When Judy's daughter required an Individualized Education Program (IEP) at school, Wyndolyn was there to keep in contact with the school and attend IEP meetings with Judy. When Judy's child began attending school at LSI's Bremwood Residential Treatment Center, Wyndolyn checked on him and provided updates to Judy. Wyndolyn also helped Judy to set up respite care through LSI's Services for People with Disabilities. Now, Judy can get a much-needed break while her children receive quality care from an LSI respite provider.

"We're one team now, we're on the same page," Judy says. "LSI has been a backbone for me when I wanted to give up. Wyndolyn talks to me when I'm stressed & ready to call it quits. She's really an advocate for my family. LSI has been a lifesaver."

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

May 27-June 1 Staff Training with Senior Counselors & IOLB at Okoboji

June 3-8 Staff Training at Riverside

June 10 – Summer Camp BEGINS!

August 4 – Riverside 5K and Quilt Auction

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.

RLBC 75th Anniversary history video on youtube

<https://youtu.be/iZh6LCnmS6I>

The **Quilt Auction** is Riverside's largest annual fund raiser and the donations are great gifts to the general ministry of Riverside! We thank the Lord and all of you who give so generously!

We are very thankful to be able to welcome ALL campers to Riverside regardless of their financial situations. The result is a great reminder of how gracious our God is and how faithful are His followers!

Please come and support the ministry of Riverside by purchasing a quilt! You take home a beautifully handmade quilt AND you will have given to God's work! We are so thankful to those of you who make quilts that abundantly bless Riverside and the campers!

The Quilt Auction is Saturday, August 4, 2018!

- 8:30 am – [Riverside 5K](#)
- 9:30 - 11:30 - Riverside Pool will be open for swimming!
- 10:00 – 12:30 – Quilt Previewing in air-conditioned chapel
- 10:00 – 12:15 – Silent Auction bidding (baby quilts/small items) Results will be known before 1:00.
- 10:30 – Brief outdoor worship
- 11:30 – 12:30 – Lunch served in the Dining Hall (free will offering)
- 1:00 – Quilt Auction in air-conditioned chapel

There is no registration necessary with the exception of if you want to participate in the Riverside 5K. We hope to see you this year!