

The Palestine Press

February 2018

Volume XXXII Number 2
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."

Celebrating Mighty Gifts in Small Packages

..... With Pastor Eric

One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people? Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. John 6:8-11

In his book, The Purpose-Driven Church, Rick Warren writes: "Small ministries often make the greatest difference. The most important light in my home is not the large chandelier in our dining room, but the little nightlight that keeps me from stubbing my toe when I get up to use the bathroom at night. It's small, but it's more useful to me than the show-off light (My wife says that my favorite light is the one that comes on when I open the refrigerator!)." I suspect that I am not the only one to lose sight of this bit of wisdom. The reason that I am writing about this in February is because of an experience that I have been pondering since Christmas.

I received a gift from one of our Palestine families which consisted of several "sown cloth bags full of rice." At face value, they seemed a curiosity to me and I was not sure whether to play with them – as with bean bags – or use them as paper weights? Teri was quick to inform me that they are used as hand warmers. You put them in the microwave for 30 seconds and then stuff them in pockets, gloves, shoes, etc. And suddenly the weather turned arctic blast brrr...I have been using these rice bags for weeks with much appreciation! I considered how such a simple idea is profoundly useful and a timely gift. God brings salvation into people's troubled lives through the simplest gifts which are given in love, care and grace by each of us at the right time (*that is in God's time*).

As we move into the Lent season, I hope that we, as a church community, might prayerful regard all the gifts and ways that God works through us to bring

love and care into the lives of those around us. We are not perfect and aware of the small differences that we can make because we tend to believe that we can do more and be more instead of letting God be all in all with it all. Jesus did not die for me so that I could be better or more than I am. He died so that who I am is enough, acceptable and blessed to be a blessing in big and small ways in Christ Jesus.

Let us pray. Gracious God, let me be a blessing to others in your hands and bring glory to you always in your time, in Jesus' name I pray. Amen.



Council Retreat -

Feb 24 9-4pm at
Riverside - Annual
Roadmap Planning
for Palestine
Lutheran Church -
Sponsored by the
LEAD resource group
This is a 7-step
process for setting

congregational goals for this year. Our leadership will be in discernment about the following: clarifying values, strengthen identification, opportunities, aspirations, results, and communication plan. Please keep us in your prayers as we listen to God's call for our congregation this year through this process. You can look for our congregation's Annual Roadmap Poster after the retreat to join us as together we join in God's mission through Palestine Lutheran Church.



Watch for the Lenten table in Fellowship Hall Items available will include:

- ✓ Journey into Lent & Holy Week 2018 Worship and Ministry Guide (This will also be available on our website under the Calendar/Forms button).
- ✓ Palestine Lent Devotional Material

Palestine Lutheran Church Worship & Study Opportunities- February 2018



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

Saturday, February 3

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

Sunday, February 4 5th Sunday after Epiphany

9:30 a.m. Worship: Install Church Council & Committees;
Holy Communion; Children's Church

Monday, February 5

2 p.m. Palestine Women of ELCA Bible study

Wednesday, February 7

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

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

Saturday, February 10

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

Sunday, February 11 Transfiguration of Our Lord

9:30 a.m. Worship: Children's Church

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

1 to 6 p.m. conFEST @ Holy Trinity Lutheran Church,
Ankeny

Wednesday, February 14

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

7 p.m. Ash Wednesday worship

Saturday, February 17

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

9:30 am Adult Study for Lent: Faces of Christ

Sunday, February 18 1st Sunday in Lent

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

10:45 -11:30 a.m. 1st Communion Class

11:00 a.m. Adult Study for Lent: Faces of Christ

Wednesday, February 21

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

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

7 p.m. Lenten mid-week worship

Saturday, February 24

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

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Church Council Retreat @ Riverside

9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Re:Vitalize. SE IA Synod day of
workshops @ 1st Lutheran Church
Cedar Rapids

Sunday, February 25 2nd Sunday in Lent

9:30 a.m. Worship: Children's Church

10:45 -11:30 a.m. 1st Communion Class

11:00 a.m. Adult Study for Lent: Faces of Christ

Wednesday, February 28

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

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

7 p.m. Lenten mid-week worship

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

February 4th Sunday after Epiphany –

Primary Text: Mark 1:29-39

An Attitude of Discipleship: *Serving*

February 11 Transfiguration – **Primary Text:** Mark 9:2-9

An Attitude of Discipleship: *Listening to Jesus*

February 18 1st Sunday in Lent –

Primary Text: Mark 1:9-15

The Path of Discipleship: *Into the Wilderness*

February 25 2nd Sunday in Lent –

Primary Text: Mark 8:31-38

The Path of Discipleship: *Beyond Oneself*

March 4 3rd Sunday in Lent – **Primary Text:** John 2:13-22

The Path of Discipleship: *Through the Maze*



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 #inthistgether 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.



Every second Sunday of each month Pastor Eric invites those who are interested to an **orientation group event**

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.

Peace,

Pastor Eric, Palestine Lutheran



We welcomed new members into our family of faith, Sunday, January 21, 2018.

We give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as

new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

Dave and Phyllis Prichard - Dave has worked in the telephone industry for 42 years to include 12 years in Radcliffe and retired from the Stratford Mutual Company as a Technical Operations Manager. Dave's interests include motorcycles which he raced professionally for many years. He enjoys mountain climbing, sky diving and hiking. Dave volunteers at the hospital in Ames, police department, animal shelter and Special Olympics. Phyllis is a retired librarian who enjoys housekeeping, volunteering, reading and piano playing. Her interests include working for environmental protection and conservation and gardening.

Chris and Amanda Richter, and their children Jax and Eden - Chris works in Des Moines for Barron Manufacturing at which he sells industrial equipment. He worked previously at Fitness World in Ankeny in management. Amanda works in Human Resources for Sigler Companies. Jax and Eden are busy students in Ballard in 2nd and Kindergarten respectively. The Richters enjoy spending family time together, being outdoors and exercising.

Sundays in Lent

Theme: Open My Life, Lord!

Galatians 2:20 and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me



What does it mean to be open? How might our life change if we were open to God's will? What might be the risks and the blessings? The Scriptures share a story of openness of God to us and us to God. Let us consider this Lenten journey how our community might live with openness.

Each Sunday we will experience something unique together as we consider what being open to God means for us. Our topics include open eyes, open hands, open ears, open hearts, and open lives.

Mid-Week Wednesday Devotions for Lent



(Simple meal 5:30 pm / worship 7:00 pm at Site)

Theme: "The Water and the Witness"

The Water and the Witness is a five week journey that navigates through Scripture, Christian tradition, and life experience as communities and people encounter the waters of baptism as both raging and peaceful. The theme intends to draw participants in to a deeper encounter with the One who both calms and stirs these waters, the One who draws all creation into his own life, death and resurrection. Bound together in baptism these promise-filled waters carry the faithful people forth to become the creation God intends, to proclaim God's transformative powers, to live a reconciled life.

Pastor Eric along with the Pastor Heidi Williams of Bethlehem in Slater, Pastor Marcus Badgley of St. John's in Madrid, Pastor Erick Swanson of Fjeldberg in Huxley and Chaplain Carla Were from the Madrid Home will be taking turns preaching under the theme, "The Water and the Witness."

The Schedule with topics is being finalized. Check the bulletin for details.

Sign up for daily devotional emails during Lent starting Ash Wednesday, February 14th. Go to www.seiasynod.org/lent2018/ to sign up



Offerings for Mid-week Meals & Worship will go towards Bucket Challenge for ELCA World Hunger Water Projects

Unless otherwise noted

SOAP FOR HOPE! –2018

Beginning Ash Wednesday, we will gather soaps for personal hygiene and cleaning laundry and linens. We will also gather toothbrushes and toothpaste. These are items that people need to stay healthy and promote a better sense of esteem and social interaction. Items of this nature are not usually allowed to be purchased with government subsidies unless specifically designated. We will collect these items to be brought forward on fifth Sunday in Lent, March 18th. They will be distributed through our local food pantries and homeless ministries in Des Moines.

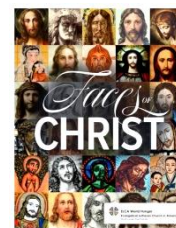
We will have an offering brought forward March 18th of soaps.



Weekend Adult Study for Lent

Theme: Faces of Christ

A Lenten study is a five-week educational series that dives into who Jesus is for us, with us and among us today. The study is a tool for learning and reflection during Lent and features activities for groups. Each session includes reflections from ministry leaders in Indonesia, India and the United States—on-going ELCA supported ministries.



Meets with two weekly opportunities—Saturday morning @ 9:30 am (2/17, 3/3,10,17,24) and Sunday morning @ 11am (2/18,25 3/6,18,25) - Palestine Lutheran Conference Room

Palestine Lent Devotional Material for 2018

Available on Lenten Table in Fellowship Hall

Practicing Love Family Devotions for Lent

Leah & Robyn Perrault

This booklet is filled with reflections & activities that gently invite the whole family to practice love for Lent, even though love never goes out of season.

(OR)

At the Crossroads Devotions for Lent

David Kehret
Lent is the perfect season to consider the critical crossroads of life -losses, transitions, choices, uncertainties & disappointments—those times when faith & life intersect. These devotions help us to become more keenly aware that our crucified and risen Savior navigated the difficult crossroads of this world for the sake of our salvation, equipping us to navigate the crossroads of our own lives.



First Communion Classes

This year first communion classes will be held after church (10:45-11:30) on February 18, 25 and March 4 and 18. Class will meet upstairs in room 12 near where the banners are stored. Doreen Blackmer will be leading the class this year and parents are strongly encouraged to attend along with their child. The class is designed for about the 5th grade level, however, if your child is younger and you would like them to participate, or if you would like to review the booklet and teaching materials to help you decide, please let Doreen know. She would like to know who is interested in taking the class by Sunday, February 4th so she can order enough books. Doreen's email is blackmer@hughes.net or you can call or text her at 515-777-6960.

conFEST 2018

conFEST is a synod-wide event to enhance and support congregation confirmation ministries by exploring churchwide connections, engaging servant learning, and creating community. For confirmation students and leaders. Participants will leave with a deeper understanding of the Five Gifts of Discipleship and how to live these out in their lives.

Sunday, February 11, 2018 1 pm to 6 pm
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Ankeny



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.

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 forms will be available soon!

Watch for volunteer opportunities - If anyone has an interest in helping with food, classroom chaperoning or planning, please contact Michelle Siepker.

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 January 21, 2018

Checking Account \$ 16,818.93

General Fund - \$ 4,046.24

Designated Funds \$ 20,865.17

Benevolence 190.00

Building Improvement 2,100.00

Technology 3,384.00

Kitchen 5,575.00

Parsonage 4,171.09

Confirmation 2,403.62

Evangelism/Fellowship 447.37

Piano Fund 2,454.09

PLC Checking Acct-Other 140.00

Principal balance for building improvement loan \$ 5,772.75

(as of January 21, 2018)

Next Council Meeting –

Sunday, February 11, 2018 at 8 a.m.

Church Council 2018

Elections will be held at the annual meeting on January 28th. The Church Council for 2018 will be listed in the March Palestine Press.



The Annual Meeting was held January 28th. A list of operational committees will appear in the March Palestine Press after

Committee Chairs and Secretaries are named for each committee. Minutes of the Annual Meeting will appear in the March Palestine Press. Copies of the Annual Report are available in Fellowship Hall or you may request a copy of the report thru the church office.

Palestine Lutheran Church Council

Meeting Minutes

[not yet approved]

January 7, 2018 Sunday - 8:00 AM

In Attendance: Pastor Eric Klimpel, Laura Kepler, Jacob Huxford, 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 – Bruce Hartman

Read Vision and Mission Statements

Goals and Reflections – Thanks to Bruce Hartman & Jacob Huxford for their service!

Minutes of the previous meeting

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

Treasurer's Report – Deidre

January PLC Checking Account	
Benevolence	\$ 10.00
Building Improvement	2,000.00
Confirmation	2,403.62
Evangelism/Fellowship Committee	447.37
General Fund Checking	-10,326.07
Kitchen	5,550.00
Parsonage	4,188.37
Piano Fund	2,454.09
Rock Group	289.83
Student Scholarship	2,270.00
Technology Fund	3,384.00
PCL Checking Other	140.00
Total PLC Checking Account	\$ 12,811.51

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

Pastor's Report -- Pastor Klimpel

- See his report.

New business:

1. Annual meeting planning.
 - a. Agenda
 - b. Meal – Confirmation will be providing soup.
2. Approval of 2018 budget recommendation from finance committee.
 - Jacob Huxford moved to recommend the 2018 Budget Recommendation from the Finance Committee, Nels Dovre seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of staff compensation.
 - a. Pastor
 - b. Church Secretary (Oriett)
 - c. Choir Director (Mindy)
 - d. Youth Liaison (Nels)
 - Brad Lewis moved to increase the staff compensation by 3% for 2018, Bruce Hartman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
4. General Fund – Catch up Sunday event needed.
 - Make a mention of this at the council meeting.
5. ROCK group leadership. Kari stepping aside.
 - McKenzie Shaffer is stepping up to fill in the vacancy left by Kari.
6. Maland estate funds (\$66,000) have been transferred to Palestine account at Edward Jones.
7. Pastor Eric got a call from a Lutheran Seminarian who has to conduct a project that involves a mission and leader analysis of a congregation in a demographic they might work in. It would involve analyzing data from the church, the community and interview people within our church congregation. The data received and analyzed from the project will be made available for our congregation once completed. The information gathered from this project would help the stewardship committee and council come up with a new 5 year plan for our church.
 - Laura Kepler moved to recommend allowing the seminarian student to conduct a project called Leading Christian Communities in Mission, David Eisenmann seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

1. Nominating committee – Review/approval of ballot.
 - a. Members: Brent Emerson, Vallery Eisenmann, Julie Huxford, Doreen Blackmer, Mark Doty, Jeff Van Pelt
 - Need a secretary – if you are interest please see Jeff Van Pelt.
2. Council retreat. Feb 24th? 9am-4pm at Riverside most likely.
3. Kitchen committee – Update.
 - Lori's Kitchen By Design is no longer interested in the project. Now the committee is meeting with a few other kitchen designers in the area.

Adjourn with Lords Prayer

Next meeting – February 11th, 2018

Feb Devotions – Brad Lewis

Feb Treats – David



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.

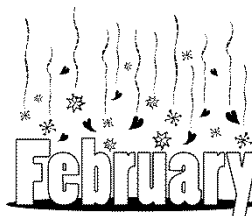
Originally from Bhutan, the couple moved to Des Moines from a refugee camp in Nepal. Since then, they have been busy improving their English and settling into their new home. They both worked seven days a week and struggled to find time to study for their exam.

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!



Volunteer schedule February 2018

Greeters

2/4 Joyce Carlson
Jody & Troy Calvert
2/11 Mark & Robin Doty
Jean Saveraid
2/18 Rich & Chris Nelson
Jim & Nina Gotta
2/25 Denise & Lowell Elliott
Christa & Greg Hartsook

Ushers

Bill Harleen, captain
David Eisenmann
Brent Larson
Brad Lewis

Sunday Fellowship

Families who greet also serve beverages for fellowship.

Communion Assistants

2/4 – Dennis Millang and Tim Wilson
2/14 – Dennis & Donna Millang
2/18 – Leonard & Sue Larson

Offering Counters

Cindi Thomas, Nancy Fausch, Brad Lewis

Altar Guild

Cindi Thomas and Holly Twedt

Snow Removal

▪ Sidewalks

Sign up in Fellowship Hall

• Drives & Parking Lots

Andrew Larson

Deliver Food Pantry donations for Feb

"February is Protein Power month at the food pantry - please donate dried milk, canned meats, processed cheese spread, peanut butter, canned beans, nuts, canned fish (tuna, salmon)."

Sponsored by Palestine Mission Outreach Committee.

Discounts for Riverside summer camp

Palestine pays \$75 for Alpha Camp (1st timers) and \$160 for other campers at Riverside. Check with church office for details.

Member Congregations

Campers from member congregations will receive a \$15 per week discount.

Siblings Discount

Families who are sending more than one camper to Riverside will receive the following discounts. The first camper will be charged the full fee. The second camper will receive a \$30 discount. Each additional camper will receive a \$50 discount. (The Siblings Discount is not available for Alpha Camp.)

Early Bird Discount! Register on or before February 15, 2018.

Early bird discount is:

\$60 discount for Alpha program

\$25 discount for Juniors/Jr. High/Sr. High

\$25 discount for Ranch Camp

\$25 discount for Adventure Camp

No early bird discount for High Adventure or Family Camp.

February

- 3 - Hauge, Michael
Johnson, Evelyn
- 6 - Thomas, Alexander
Twedt, Grant
- 8 - Nelson, Richard (75th)
Saveraid, David
- 9 - Larson, Alvina (97th)
Shelton, Tom
- 11 - Shelton, Gabe
Shelton, Kristin
Van Pelt, Alise
- 13 - Brendeland, Charles
Cast, Bernadine (86th)
Kopaska, Deb
- 15 - Larson, Virgil (76th)
- 16 - Brendeland, Anita (89th)
Kam, Melinda
Ness, Toni
- 17 - Williams, Matthew
- 18 - Gotta, Nina
Saveraid, Katherine (84th)
- 22 - Lewis, Aubrey
Rasmussen, Cheryl
Thomas, Cindi
- 24 - Medici, Stacie
- 27 - Larson, Aaron
- 28 - Simmons, Dean
- 29 - Dykstra, Travis

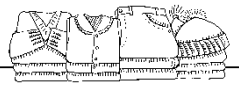


If your birthday or anniversary was not included or was incorrect, please contact the church office so we can update our records.

Celebrating Their ANNIVERSARY

FEBRUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

- 14 - Deidre Qual & Merlin Lyon
16 - Jason & Melinda Kam (5th)
24 - Leonard & Sue Larson (45th)



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 will be available 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. Thank you for supporting this important ministry in Huxley.

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; Jane Gordon; Sandy Harleen; Bruce Hartman; Ruth Hennick; Ralph Kalsem; Alvina Larson; Merlin Lyon; Kris Polich; Lorraine Sorensen; Mackenzie Tallman; Shannon Tope; 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.

We welcome the newest members of our family of faith... received by Holy Baptism on January 21, 2018, **Greyson Oliver Johnson**. Greyson is the son of **Oliver** and **Genna Johnson**. His baptismal sponsors are John & Christina Odentahl.

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

...received by affirmation of faith on January 21, 2018, **Dave & Phyllis Prichard; Chris & Amanda Richter, and their children Jax & Eden**. We give thanks for these people whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.



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.

Check out these new items in the Palestine library!



Library Book Review: Higher Ground by Carolyn S. Briggs

This memoir is about Carolyn, a young woman who grew up in Iowa attending Sunday school but never developed a relationship with Jesus until she had gone through some difficult

times, started a family early in life and was approached by an old friend who had accepted Jesus while at college. Carolyn's husband, Eric, had questions and became eager to learn more about the Bible and Jesus which led the couple to devote their lives to the service of Christ. Eric switched from playing in a rock band to playing music at church and they both became fundamentalist Christians spending much of their time learning about God, praying, living a spartan lifestyle and encouraging other young Christians to do the same. Finally, after having three children and moving to Arkansas for Eric's promotion, Carolyn's strong faith begins to waver. She decides that her husband no longer makes her happy and that her life isn't fulfilling. She struggles with her faith and commitment to her husband and decides to earn a college degree. In the process of trying to find herself, Carolyn finds her old church unwelcoming and unforgiving and makes some major changes that leave her wondering if she grew up too fast and missed out on life. This book was an interesting look at someone's internal struggle with faith and fulfillment.



Library Movie Review: "The Case for Christ" based on the best-selling book of the same name

This movie tells the true story of Lee Strobel, an award-winning investigative journalist, who is an atheist until he is challenged to

look into the details of Christ's death, burial and resurrection. Lee's daughter nearly choked to death but was saved by a nurse who claims she felt called to eat at that particular restaurant where the Strobel's were celebrating. After this event, Lee's wife, Leslie, accepts Christ, begins to attend church and gets baptized. Leslie continues to pray for Lee's conversion, but Lee refuses to believe God had anything to do with his daughter being spared. After discussing his increasing anger at his wife's change, Lee's co-workers challenge him to talk to some experts about Jesus' story. In the end, after gathering

information, Strobel can no longer deny Christ and welcomes the Lord into his heart. Lee Strobel went on to write several Christian books. This movie was both uplifting and informational about the details of Christ's sacrifice.



Library Movie Review: "The Young Messiah"

This is a fictional story about what it might have been like for Jesus and his family when he was a young boy. It is based on scripture and historical information,

however, there has been little written about Jesus as a boy from which to draw material. During the movie, Jesus, seemingly a normal boy, begins to notice he can do things that others can't and that Satan is often around him causing problems. Mary's brother encourages Joseph and Mary to begin to reveal the secret of Jesus' origin, but they feel he is too young to be told he is the son of God. Everywhere the Nazarenes go, Roman soldiers are sent to look for young Jesus and kill him throughout the movie since Herod the Great was unsuccessful in eliminating him when he was a baby. Finally, a Roman soldier sees that young Jesus has performed a miracle in Jerusalem and he has to decide what to do about this potential threat to the Romans.

Doreen Blackmer, reviewer

R.O.C.K.

Reaching Out for Christ's Kingdom

Annual Candlelight Valentine's Dinner



The 12th Annual Valentine's Dinner will be Sunday, February 11th with seatings at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Childcare provided for the 5:00 seating. Please plan to come – fantastic food (4 course meal – choice of chicken or pork), super service, elegant atmosphere!

Reservation forms are available in Fellowship Hall, as a bulletin insert and available on our website under the calendar/forms button. They would like all reservation forms to be returned by Friday, February 9th – turn in to either the ROCK box or to Kari Sandquist's mailbox in Fellowship Hall. .Make checks payable to the ROCK group.

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.

pls 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

PALESTINE WOMEN OF ELCA

PALESTINE WOMEN OF ELCA Bible study February 5, 2 pm

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

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

March: Session 3 – The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37)

April: Session 4– The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-20)

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

In part two of this study we continue to explore how we identify with the characters of the Bible and how we discern what a story means to us based on those characters. Here we look especially at Luke 3:3-17 and the preaching of John the Baptist to explore how people do not always mean the same thing when they say that something is meaningful.

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.

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

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

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, February 17! 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) and their daughters

What: Dancing and Snacks

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

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

How Much: \$5 per 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! Through-out this weekend, couples will enjoy time together with rest, worship, creative skits, laughter, time with our speakers, lots of fun, great food & great fellowship.

Meet our Speakers, Jeremy and Briget Johnson. Jeremy & 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 & overseeing many ministry areas. Previous to coming to Hope, Jeremy was an English teacher & worked in youth & young adult ministries in ND. Briget is heavily involved in many different ministries & activities that allow her to serve women & children. Life is busy with parenting, work, family & friendships. Jeremy & 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 & watching sports, running & working out.

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, & 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.

During the summer of 2018, we are excited to partner with several food pantries and food banks in our local area for our "Summer 2018 Seek First Food Drive"! This summer, we're inviting all of our campers to bring specific items to have an opportunity to bless people with the provision of food. All donations will be distributed weekly to food pantries in the Story County area around Riverside. Here are the details!

What to bring? Peanut butter & jelly (no glass container) and canned fruit.

Where do I bring it? We will have a large collection box in the upstairs of the Dining Hall when you come to register.

When do I bring it? Bring your food items with you to camp when you come for check-in on Sunday (Or Wednesday for Wednesday-Friday Alpha campers)

What else can we do? Get involved with your local food pantries in your community and pray for the Lord to bless those who will eat this food, that they would know the incredible love of Jesus Christ in their life.

GOOD NEWS! — It is with great pleasure and thanksgiving that I (Dave McDermott, director) am announcing that Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp has reached the \$2,500,000 goal for our Living Water, Living Word appeal! This appeal started five years ago and through God's blessings and tremendous support of hundreds of individuals, congregations and businesses we are there.

For those of you have pledged to this cause and still have an outstanding amount for your pledge, we are still counting on your completion of that and have included the unpaid pledge amount in reaching the goal at this time.

Thank you to all of you for your wonderful support of the Riverside ministry whether it has been financial support, gifts-in-kind or prayer support. Know that God has used you to bless the ministry.