

The Palestine Press

March 2014

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

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**Pastor David Cline, Interim
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."

"Consider your call..."

In March the Palestine "Call" committee will probably begin to interview candidates. And, as the Spirit moves, there will come the day when the congregation will vote to issue a "call" for a Pastor to come and proclaim the word as well as administer the sacraments. In the Lutheran church we value this notion of "calling" but as we continue down the path of welcoming a new Pastor it is important to understand that we also value the "priesthood of all believers." In other words, "CONSIDER YOUR CALL!"

Consider your call as one baptized, filled with the Spirit, and sent to serve. Just as the Pastor has certain responsibilities and a "flock", so do you! Perhaps that flock is your family, perhaps that flock involves the people living next door to you? Perhaps those flocks are children who gather at Palestine or the children who gather in the school or playground? Perhaps that flock involves one who has wandered off and in need desperately of someone who will seek and find? Consider your call!

The Lenten midweek worship begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5th with worship at 7:00 p.m. Then on March 12th, 19th, 26, April 2, and April 9 we will have a soup supper beginning at 5:30 followed by worship at 7:00. The Pastors of Nazareth in Cambridge, Bethlehem in Slater, St. John in Madrid, as well as the chaplain of Madrid Homes and the Youth director of Fjeldberg will be taking turns as guest preachers under the theme, "Consider your call." I will be joining in this as well as a guest preacher in those communities of faith. We will be speaking about "calling" and our hope is that in our messages there will be an encouragement to be salt and light as followers of Jesus sent into the world. This Lenten season, let's make a special effort to join together in worship as we move toward the celebration of Easter!

See you in worship, and invite a friend!

Pastor Cline

Vacation Bible School!

Please mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School! VBS will be held jointly with Fjeldberg Lutheran Church in Huxley at their location this year. **Dates for VBS are June 9-12** with staff from Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp facilitating the week. We're excited to continue our partnership with Fjeldberg and reach large numbers of Ballard youth through this ministry. We will need volunteers to assist in these efforts in classroom helpers, preschool teachers and kitchen help. Please let the committee know if you are able to help in any aspect of this important youth ministry.

Upcoming Family Sunday!

On Sunday, March 9th, congregational members can grab snacks and a board game and enjoy a time of fellowship during the Sunday School hour. Bring your board games and enthusiasm to spend some time with the youth of our congregation.

Sunday School during renovation

A listing of where Sunday School classes will be meeting during renovation can be found on the bulletin board in the North Hall.



Daily Discipleship themes which will be used for Wednesday morning Men's Bible study (uses the text for the following Sunday). They are also used for the adult class that meets during Sunday School in the workroom (area

outside offices). They are available on the ELCA website – www.elca.org → Resources → Downloadable Resources → Bible Studies

March 2, Transfiguration of Our Lord – **Primary Text:** Matthew 17:1-9
Discipleship: *Following God's Beloved*

March 9 First Sunday in Lent – **Primary Text:** Matthew 4:1-11
Discipleship: *An Instrument of Peace and Love*

March 16 Second Sunday in Lent – **Primary Text:** John 3:1-17
Discipleship: *An Instrument of Pardon and Faith*

March 23 Third Sunday in Lent – **Primary Text:** John 4:5-42
Discipleship: *An Instrument of Hope and Light*

March 30 Fourth Sunday in Lent – **Primary Text:** John 9:1-41
Discipleship: *An Instrument of Joy and Consolation*



Palestine will be offering First Communion instruction during Lent, as students learn the meaning of Holy Communion. We will use the *Fed and Forgiven* curriculum offered through Augsburg Fortress.

Classes will be held during Sunday School starting March 9 for 4 (or 5, if necessary) consecutive Sundays. 1st Communion will be on Maundy Thursday, April 17. Doreen Blackmer is the teacher for this class.



Thank you! to those who have contributed items for the **LWR Personal Care kits**. We have 9 kits! The simple items included in an LWR Personal Care Kit allow families who have lost their belongings after a disaster to stay

healthy and clean and preserve personal dignity.

There's still time to bring items to include in the kits we will assemble to include in the April LWR shipment. There is a collection box available on the counter in the workroom – area outside the office. Check with Oriett if you have questions.



The **confirmation youth** will be going to Chicago, Illinois March 21 through the 23rd for a learning and fellowship experience. While there they will tour the ELCA headquarters, stay at the seminary, go to a Saint Luke Holy Eucharist church service, and hopefully fit in a deep dish Chicago style pizza dinner!



Jr. Lutherans are invited to participate in Riverside's Spring Blast! A great way to recharge and reconnect!

Where: At Riverside in Story City
When: Saturday, March 29th
Time: 9:30 - 5:30

What to bring: Bible, clothes for outside fun, money for camp store, a smiling face, a buddy!

Visit their website for more details at
<http://www.riversidelbc.org/programs/youth-programs/spring-blasts>

We will coordinate chauffeuring kids as a group to the camp! Contact Lesa Lewis to reserve your spot at lesa@circlecloud.net

Palestine Lutheran Church

Worship & Study Opportunities- March 2014



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

Saturday, March 1 7 a.m. Tri County Men's Bible study @ Ballard Creek

Sunday, March 2 *Transfiguration of Our Lord*

9:30 a.m. Worship: Holy Communion; Baptism of Priya Roelfs

10:45 a.m. Sunday School

Monday, March 3

2 p.m. Women of ELCA Bible study

Wednesday, March 5 *Ash Wednesday*

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

7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship

Saturday, March 8

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

8:30 am – 3 pm Everyday Evangelists – SE IA Synod in Cedar Rapids

Sunday, March 9 *1st Sunday in Lent*

9:30 a.m. Worship: Baptism of Carter DeVries

10:45 a.m. Family Sunday – board games; 1st Communion Class

Wednesday, March 12

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

7:00 p.m. Mid Week Lenten Worship: *Consider Your Call* with Pastor Heidi Williams of Bethlehem as guest

Saturday, March 15

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

Sunday, March 16 *2nd Sunday in Lent*

9:30 a.m. Worship: Holy Communion

10:45 a.m. Sunday School; 1st Communion Class

Wednesday, March 19

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

7:00 p.m. Mid Week Lenten Worship: *Consider Your Call* with Stanek – Fjeldberg Director of Youth Ministries as guest

Friday, March 21 thru Sunday, March 23

Confirmation Youth to Chicago

Saturday, March 22

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

Sunday, March 23 *3rd Sunday in Lent*

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:45 a.m. Sunday School; 1st Communion Class

Wednesday, March 26

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

7:00 p.m. Mid Week Lenten Worship: *Consider Your Call* with Pastor Marcia Kisner of Nazareth as guest

Saturday, March 29

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

9:30 am – 5:30 pm Riverside Spring Blast for grades 3-6

Sunday, March 30 *4th Sunday in Lent*

9:30 a.m. Worship: Holy Communion

10:45 a.m. Sunday School; 1st Communion Class

Sunday School during renovation

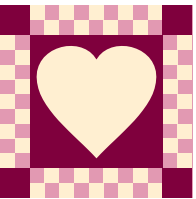
Classes will be held as follows:

- > Preschool - nursery room
- > EK/K - no room change - in current room in addition
- > 1 & 2 – confirmation/choir room in addition
- > 3 & 4 – back pews in sanctuary
- > 5 & 6 - choir loft
- > Confirmation & ROCK will be held in the parsonage.
- > Adult class will meet in work room (area outside offices).

Openings

- > The Cherub choir (preschool thru 2nd grade) opening will be held in the north hall.
- > Jr. Lutherans opening will still be in choir loft as normal.
- > We appreciate the use of the north hall for Sunday School and opening for a few months and ask that parishioners use the old fellowship hall for coffee and conversation while we all wait for a completed renovation. Thank you.

Winter Warm-up – Baptismal Quilt Kits



Looking for a simple project? We need to replenish our inventory of baptismal quilts.

There are baptismal quilt kits available in the choir room. Each kit has all the needed materials (Quilt top, binding, batting, backing). Once completed, they can be returned to the choir room. You can complete all or part of the quilt – if you like putting just the tops together, that's fine. Just note what steps you complete on the instructions inside the kit.

The donations of your time and selves are much appreciated – without these, we would not be able to continue this ministry in our congregation. Please help us provide these little bits of comfort to our newest little members!

Questions? Erika Williams (515) 229-7897 or erikawllms@gmail.com



web address –

www.plchuxley.com

We now have a 'live calendar' which will be updated at least weekly. Be sure to give Oriett info about your events or committee meetings so they can be added to the calendar.

Church Office: 515/597-2620

Secretary's Office: 515/597-2624

Church e-mail is: PLC@huxcomm.net

Fax number: 515/597-2621

Pastor Cline's email: lutherpstr@gmail.com

Website: www.plchuxley.com

Treasurer's Report

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Balance on hand February 18, 2014 | |
| General Fund | \$ 2,341.88 |
| Designated Funds | \$ 16,395.25 |
| Improvement | 6,438.74 |
| Seminary | 70.00 |
| Building Addition | 9,886.51 |

Building Addition Loan Update

The principal balance due on the loan is \$52,164.11 after the January 15th payment.

The next loan payment of \$5,473.01 is due April 15, 2014.

Church Council 2014

Interim Pastor David Cline

President: Brad Lewis

Vice President: Mike Thomas

Secretary: Kristin Shelton

Treasurer: Nancy Fausch

Financial Sec'y: Dick Kepler

Council: Mark Doty

Bruce Hartman Jacob Huxford

Cynthia Johnson Laura Kepler

Jeff VanPelt Justin Sample

Matt Williams Lora Young

Call Committee–

Tim Wilson, chairman

Helen Kepler

Alvina Larson

Mike Larson

Jean Saveraid

Jeff Van Pelt

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). 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.

OPERATIONAL COMMITTEES

Cemetery

Omar Brendeland
Ken Larson
Leonard Larson
Richard Nelson
Tom Shelton
Garry Wirtz

Christian Education

Julie Emerson, co-chair
Christa Hartsook, co-chair
Michelle Siepkner, co-chair
Julie Huxford
Kristin Shelton
Erika Williams

Evangelism/Fellowship

Tracy Sheldahl, chair
Denise Elliott
Roger Moore
Wade Twedt
Allan Kopaska
Lisa Sheldahl

Library Committee

Deb Moore, chair
Laura Kepler, secretary
Doreen Blackmer
Sheri Davis

Memorials Committee

Cindy Thomas
Jean Saveraid
Liz Johnson
Nancy Fausch (advisor)

Mission Outreach

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

Property/Parsonage Committee

Ordean Johnson, chair
Lowell Elliott
Bill Harleen
Greg Hartsook
Ron Locker
Dennis Millang
Rick Sheldahl
Tracy Sheldahl

Stewardship Committee

Mike Thomas, chair
Brad Lewis
Tom Shelton
Lora Young
Dick Kepler (financial secretary)

Worship Committee

Marge Sheldahl, chair
Joyce Carlson
Grace Johnson
Deb Kopaska
Roger Larson
Jeannie Williams
Sandy Wirtz

OTHER COMMITTEES ELECTED

Finance

Mike Thomas
Allan Kopaska
Lyle Martin
Also serving:
Brad Lewis (pres)
Nancy Fausch (Treas)
Dick Kepler (financial secy,
advisor)
(stewardship chair advisor)

Nominating

Holly Larson
Dick Cast
Karina Snider
Bruce Hartman
Jake Huxford

Youth Advisory Council

Jr. Lutherans
Jody Calvert
Lesia Lewis
Lori Schonhorst

Jr. High

Robin Doty
Jamie Ness

ROCK

Tracy Blackmer
Kari Huxford
McKenzie Shaffer

DELEGATES – 1 YEAR TERM

SE Iowa Synod Assembly

Joyce Carlson
Deidre Qual

Bethany Manor

Marge Sheldahl

Madrid Home

Doreen Blackmer
Deb Moore

Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp

Brent & Julie Emerson

Palestine Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

[not yet approved]

February 23rd, 2013 -- Sunday 8:30 A.M..

Devotions -- Dick Kepler gave a devotion from Faith in Action from the ELCA publication.

Attendance: Cynthia Johnson, Lora Young, Jeff Van Pelt, Mark Doty, Pastor Cline, Jacob Huxford, Dick Kepler, Bruce Hartman, Matt Williams, Nancy Fausch, Kristin Shelton, Brad Lewis, Mike Thomas

Read Vision & Mission Statements

Goals for the Month, Reflection on Last Month
--2 new council members, work on database

Encourage everyone to attend the Lenten services and 50% of the Church Council to attend and 100% of the council to extend welcome and thanks to all the clergy who are providing the services.

Minutes of the previous meetings: A motion was made by Mike Thomas to approve the minutes, Bruce Hartman seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report -- Nancy provided a written report. Nancy reports after January minutes she paid some bills.

Lora Young motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report; Jeff Van Pelt seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

General fund balance-\$420.51

Designated fund balance includes:

-Building Addition \$9886.51

-Improvement fund \$6438.74

-Benevolence \$280

-Seminary Tuition Fund \$70

Pastor's Report -- Pastor Cline

Old business:

1. Call Committee update -- Tim Wilson, Committee Chair-We will be getting names within a week. We will be given 3 people to interview.
2. Database -- Part of Pastor Report

1. Property Committee update on the Remodel-Ordean gave Brad an update. There have been some "snags". The project manager had a heart attack and the adjustor had a car accident and broke both of his legs. Ordean has some ideas on how to improve (listed below) the church while we have the ability to. We will be having an informational congregational meeting next Sunday. Jake Huxford moved to approve the property committee on the four projects listed, Mark Doty seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

Discussion of 3 projects

- i. Insulation of the South walls (\$2900)
- ii. Insulation of the upstairs classrooms (\$1000)
- iii. New door on the West door (\$3200)
- iv. Panic bars and card strips (\$750,\$300)

New Business :

1. Baptisms : March 2nd Priya Ann Roelfs, daughter of Tyler and Sarah Roelfs
March 9th Carter Ray DeVries, son of Russ and Mindy DeVries

A motion was made by Kristin Shelton to approve the baptisms listed above, Matt Williams seconded the motion.

2. Funerals : Feb. 3rd David Cleo Cooper (July 16, 1949-Jan. 28, 2014)
Feb 14th Leona Viola Larson (December 23rd, 1919-February 9,2014)

3. Transfer : To Altoona United Methodist Church -- Robyn Renae Stephens, Tanner Lee Stephens and Taylor Renae Stephens.

A motion was made by Mike Thomas to approve the above transfers, seconded by Jeff Van Pelt. Motion passed unanimously. Adjourn with Lords Prayer

Next meeting -- March 9th- 6:00 PM-
This will be Informational Leadership Meeting by Pastor Cline & Church Council Meeting.
March Devotions-Justin Sample

Remember in Prayer

The following were included in the Prayers of the Church during February: Merlin Lyon; Donna Millang; Henry Rumbaugh; Miles Taylor

- Krishna & his family of India, child sponsored by Palestine's Sunday School students.
- Those impacted by flooding, earthquakes, tsunamis, storms, tornadoes, drought & wild fires.
- The Palestine Call Committee as they continue their work in finding a new pastor.
- Palestine as we proceed with the restoration process following the frozen pipe & resultant water damage

We extend our prayers and sincerest Christian sympathy...

...to family and friends of David Cooper

...to family and friends of Leona V. Larson

May the risen Lord give his strength and comfort to their families in their time of loss.



MARCH

19 – Marvin & Lori Edwards

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



March Birthdays

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 - Kaedence DeVries Jeannie Williams | 19 - Addy Siepker John Teig |
| 2 - Lauren Brendeland | 20 - Brittany Young |
| 4 - Benjamin Ewing Grace Johnson Cheyenne Kirk | 21 - Blake Edwards |
| 5 - Samantha Harmon Dave Mueller | 22 - Chris Nelson Kevin Kopaska Austin Wirtz |
| 7 - Mark Doty Ruth Hennick (85 th) Andrew Larson Aiden Lewis | 23 - Doreen Blackmer |
| 10 - Brad Lewis | 24 - JC Brock Nicolas Schonhorst |
| 11 - Joyce Carlson Marvin Edwards Chad Elliott Lucas Hartsook Sidney Jamison Katie Porter | 25 - Jessica Blackmer Garrett Porter Paul Porter |
| 13 - Madeline Sheldahl | 26 - Teresa Smith |
| 17 - Tegan Nielson Rebecca Snider | 28 - Cynthia Fausch Erika Williams |
| 18 - Tylan Siepker | 29 - Brent Emerson Helen Kepler Rick Sheldahl |
| | 30 - Tate Brendeland Mae Wilson |
| | 31 - Liz Johnson |



2014

Greeters

- 3/2 Mark & Robin Doty
Cory & Amy Larson
- 3/9 Ken & Louise Larson
Chris & Rich Nelson
- 3/16 ..Matt & Erika Williams
Kris & Andrew Polich
- 3/23 ..Sue & Leonard Larson
Leslie Morford
- 3/30 ..Leona O Larson
Harriet Sheldahl

Acolytes –

- 3/2
3/9
3/16
3/23
3/30

Lectors -

to be contacted

Ushers

Lowell Elliott, captain Tom Shelton
Ordean Johnson Craig Fausch

Sunday Fellowship

Families who greet also serve beverages for fellowship.

Communion Assistants

to be contacted

Offering Counters

Lyle Martin, Bob Snider

Altar Ministry

Donna Millang, Helen Kepler

Snow removal - sidewalks

Sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall

Deliver Food Pantry donations for March

March is Veggie Tales & Fruits of the Field month at the food pantry - please donate canned vegetables, canned tomato sauce, canned fruit, applesauce."

Sponsored by Palestine Mission Outreach Committee.

Monday, March 3, 2:00 p.m. Bible Study.

**In Good Company: Stories of Biblical Women
September 2013-May 2014**

Session 6: *Woman of Endor, a Seer and
Communicator*

Theme verse And Jephthah made a vow to the Lord, and said, "If you will give the Ammonites into my hand then whoever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return victorious from the Ammonites, shall be the Lord's, to be offered up by me as a burnt offering. Judges 11:30-31

Overview: Let's call her Daughter, because she needs a name. Daughter, a young woman, retreats to the mountains with her female companions when her life is put in jeopardy by an oath her father made to God. She waves good-bye to a life that she had imagined for herself, she grieves her virginity, and her actions become a memorial to her.

In this Bible study, a young daughter and a woman anointing Jesus are both remembered for something they do. These women, acting out of love while saying good-bye, remind us to think about what we will be remembered for. What will be our memorial?

Objectives:

- Identify Psalm 130 as Martin Luther's inspiration for a hymn, ELW 600,
- Learn the significance of the rending of clothes,
- Wrestle with the uncertain ending of the story of Jephthah's daughter, and
- Reflect on how they would like to be remembered.

Theme for the March edition of *Gather* is – **A Hard Journey.** There are times in the life of faith when we find ourselves on a difficult path and we are tempted to turn back. But God's grace will carry us when the way is hard.

Piecemakers News- March 2014

As we wait for the renovation of the church to be finished, we look forward to a time in April when we can display all the beautiful quilts that we have been working on. Please watch the bulletin for the dedication/display date.

We've only missed one day of quilting with all the wild winter weather we have been having. I guess we are just the wild winter quilters of Palestine church enjoying getting together to make warm, beautiful quilts ship to much warmer climates. I guess we share our warmth many ways.

Please come join us any Wednesday 1 – 4 p.m. and share your secret talent that can help us make the world a warmer place.

We can still use those twin (or bigger) flat sheets—new or gently used—to cover the backs of our quilts! Thanks to all those who have donated to the cause.

The ROCK Group would like to thank all of those who attended the Annual Valentine's Dinner. Your constant support and encouragement of the high school students is overwhelming. We are truly blessed to have all of you behind us in our endeavors to attend our mission trip to Minneapolis, MN this June!



Thank you
ROCK Group

Good afternoon,
I just want to say thank you for the scholarship. It is greatly appreciated and it will be put to good use.
Thanks again!
Alex Thomas

A Note of Thanks

The family of Leona V. Larson would like to thank you for all of your love and support. We really appreciated your prayers, cards, food, flowers, and memorials given in Mom's memory.

A special thanks to Pastor Cline for his support and kind words, to Marge Sheldahl for her gift of music, and to the members of Palestine who provided lunch after the service. May God bless all of you!

Donna Larson Knox
Angela & Greg Hitt
Delaney & Emily
Brandon Knox

The Resource Center - News & Scripture

Last week, news sources reported that during a severe storm that battered the Atlantic coast of Europe, a loaded ship that routinely carries thousands of 40-foot steel containers filled with goods, lost a record number of them into the sea -- about 520.

There is a sense in which that ship can be a metaphor for us, who, under normal circumstances, go about our daily lives doing our duty, handling our responsibilities and proving ourselves reliable and adequate for our tasks. But when heavy storms of life come, some of our duties may become more than we can fully handle, and not all of them are completed.

The Big Questions

1. Using the ship carrying containers as a metaphor for us handling our responsibilities, what do you consider to be your God-given duties in life? How did you arrive at that conclusion?
2. What kinds of "storms" make it difficult to fully pursue your daily callings?
3. How do you think God views our failure to do what we perceive as our duty? Does our being under unusual stress have any bearing on God's view of our failures?
4. From a Christian point of view, what is the significance of personal failure? How can it increase our faith in God? What might we do ahead of time to decrease the likelihood that the storms of life will impair our ability to fulfill our God-given duties?

Bible verses to guide your thoughts

1 Chronicles 16:37

In this context, these worship-related duties may be considered "God-given," and bring to mind stanzas from two Christian hymns, both by Charles Wesley. One is the second stanza of "A Charge to Keep I Have" and the other stanzas are the first two of "Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go."

Questions: To what degree do these hymn lyrics voice a prayer of your heart? Are there times when a hymn, poem or verse inspires, encourages or even shames us into doing the right thing?

Proverbs 31:15

This woman in Proverbs not only manages her household with alacrity, but she rises in the middle of the night with cheerful energy to begin preparing food and directing her household staff. She makes the clothing for her family and herself, as well as extra garments that she markets and sells to local merchants, does charity work for the poor, finds time to handle some real estate transactions and then to plant vineyards on the land she has acquired. Through all of this, she home-schools her children in kindness and religion, keeps up her spirits and behaves with such decorum that she is a good reflection on her husband, who, freed of household duties, is able to take his seat among the elders (a sort of ancient community-service equivalent of sitting on the city council or serving as a judge).

Questions: How does the attitude with which you approach your responsibilities reflect your Christian commitment? Is this an example of how administrative skills such as advance planning and follow-through can be one of the spiritual gifts?

Luke 9:23

Questions: Do you find this conversation between Jesus and Peter hopeful? Why or why not? Do you consider the commission given to Peter his alone? Are we to accept the same command to "Feed [Christ's] sheep?" spiritually or literally? What do you and your church do or not do in this regard?

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



A big thank you to Palestine for sponsoring the

February 11, 2014, Life Serve Blood Drive. In all, 27 people registered, and 20 blood donations were received (18 whole blood, 2 "double red" donations) We also had one first time donor (thanks Michelle S.!!!) In all 56 lifesaving products were made possible through this church sponsored event. The next blood drive for Palestine is on the calendar for June 10th from 3 - 7 PM. Contact Deb Moore to sign up, or go to the Life Serve website (<http://www.lifeservebloodcenter.org>) to sign up online.

Kumla (Norwegian Potato Dumpling) Dinner

Monday, March 3rd rescheduled from January 6th
at Ballard Creek Community Assisted Living in Huxley
from 12 to 1:30. You can dine in or call ahead for take out! 515.597.2555

Everyday Evangelists

Deepen your faith. Share your story.

Called Together in Mission

Saturday, March 8, 2014 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

First Lutheran, Cedar Rapids

\$20/person – Register by February 28 – let the church office know if you are interested in attending

We are "Called Together in Mission"! Each of us is an **everyday evangelist called by God to boldly live out our faith and share Jesus' love**. This year, CTIM welcomes Peggy Hahn, Executive Director of LEAD: Living every day as disciples, Gulf Coast Synod. Peggy will inspire, share ideas and provide resources that will expand your thinking and deepen your spiritual life. This is an event for everyone in your congregation - bring your entire evangelism team and council to participate **Additional information available on the Synod website (www.seiasynod.org) – including schedule & workshop descriptions.**

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

It's tough out there: The Lutheran's March issue takes a look at maneuvering in today's "rocky vocational road." Find out how Lutherans, strengthened by their faith and understanding of vocation, cope with the challenges in today's job market. To help your discussion of this article, visit www.thelutheran.org for a study guide—click on "study guides" on the left-hand side.

Seasonal reading: In the March issue of *The Lutheran*, **reflect** on Ash Wednesday by reading "We are dust—even the children" ... **discover** the importance of St. Patrick's Day for Lutherans ... or **try to make sense** of the Transfiguration with ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton.

Think on this: The Lutheran is a resource for study groups. In the March issue, join columnist Peter Marty in a challenging conversation on "Who gets saved?" Ponder "Freedom just another word for not following Jesus," a tough narrow path to travel in a me-focused culture. Join two ELCA teaching theologians in asking, "How will the church of the future look?" Travel to the Elmina Slave Dungeons in Ghana and think about racial justice. Discover a Lutheran appreciation for the pope. Or entertain some unsettling questions (to help your discussion of this article, a "study guide" is available).

Try this! The Lutheran is a resource for congregations. In the March issue, **find** out how North Carolina youth serve the homeless in a respectful, dignified way ... **take** a Lenten challenge—confirmation students in Wisconsin did and made the world a better place ... or **find out** how you can "Prepent"—plan for Pentecost ... or **think** about holding a "Brats N More" event.

Your source for news: The Lutheran's March issue is a resource for news of the ELCA and the church at large: **visit** South Dakota with ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton as she meets with ranchers who lost cattle following an October storm ... **get** an update on the ELCA Malaria Campaign ... **learn** about "Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA" ... **travel** to Tanzania, where Lutherans provide telescopes to remote villages ... and **meet** a funny Lutheran.

Online resources: Visit www.thelutheran.org for all your research and study needs—you can find more than 900 archived articles and more than 390 study guides.

Coming up in future issues of *The Lutheran*:

- **April cover story:** What is the role of tradition in the church?
- **100 days:** An interview with ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.
- **Living gallery:** Art comes to life at Colorado church.
- **Senior section:** A Harvest Moon Ball & filling a need for housing.
- **No leftovers:** Milwaukee congregation feeds the homeless with food restaurants would have thrown out.
- **Easter:** A hymn-writer reflects on the season.
- **Locked up, locked out:** For the church, poverty and criminal justice are connected.
- **No words:** Malaysian Lutherans struggle as the government confiscates Bibles.

March is National Social Work Month, a time to recognize and

celebrate the many highly trained professionals who dedicate their lives to helping others through the field of social work. Social workers are found in all areas of community life, helping millions of struggling families and individuals find resources, discover their strengths and access tools needed to build a better life.

LSI is proud to be an affiliated social ministry organization of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and proud to have so many dedicated social workers bringing life-changing services to Iowa communities. Your support and prayers help us carry out our mission of responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service.

Keep up with LSI's 150th anniversary news at www.LSIowa.org/150. Join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Sharing the gifts

Your support and prayers help LSI's (Lutheran Services in Iowa) social ministry programs give new hope and new opportunities to Iowa kids, families and adults. Have you ever thought about how the people LSI serves also bring wonderful gifts to their communities? Our LSI staff would like to share some of these gifts with you and how they are inspired daily:

- "Our elderly group gives the gift of warm welcomes to anyone who enters the Refugee Community Services building."
- "A woman I support through our services for people with disabilities is actively involved as a volunteer for food drives, fundraisers and many other activities. She feels an obligation to give back to her community as a thank you for the services she receives."
- "One of the moms I support has the best work ethic I have ever seen!"
- "One of my proudest moments was hearing a girl who has struggled greatly with self-harming in the past share her story to her peers and become a mentor to them. She encourages them to respect themselves and value their self-worth."
- "One of our moms gives the gift of knowledge to friends and family about the parenting skills she has learned through our program."
- "One of the people I support gave up his place in line to an elderly woman. You should have seen the pride on his face when she complimented him!"

Thank you for supporting critical human services in your community and making stories of hope, healing and wholeness happen every day!



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

Public Horseback Rides, Birthday Parties, and Lessons at the Ranch

Many times we are asked the question, "May we come out and ride?" The answer is, "Yes, with some stipulations." We offer rides for 8-13 people at \$20/ rider. The ride is 45-60 minutes long. The trail riders must be in 5th grade & older. We also do birthday parties for children. If the children are under 5th grade, they must ride in the arena, if 5th grade and older, they may go on a trail ride.

Our Ranch schedule is quite busy, so you need to call ahead and the answer is always conditional to camp schedule and the availability of staff and volunteers. We also offer riding lessons in the fall and spring, so give us a call if you are interested! Call 1-515-733-5271 & ask for Jan.

Riverside Marriage Retreat: March 7-9, 2014

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 - Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Amos 3:3 - Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?

The Marriage Retreat is a time to get away from our normal schedules, demands as being parents, housework, cooking, dishes, etc.! Take the time to be with your spouse in an atmosphere which encourages godly marriages, lasting relationships, friendships within marriages, and fellowship with others.

God's Word is powerful—it affects lives and marriages! Couples enjoy time together, as well as worship, skits by our program team, lots of fun, great food, fellowship and laughter.

Pray With Us

God is faithful! We want to praise Him, thank Him and ask His blessings on the ministry of Riverside. Please join the Riverside prayer team as we bring these prayers to His throne of grace and mercy:

- Lots of praise and thanksgiving for what the Lord has done, is doing, and will do through the Riverside ministry
- Wisdom, discernment, vision, and guidance in decision making
- Generous donors to the Living Water, Living Word Appeal
- Solid, God-directed, unified staff
- Strong relationships with all congregations

- Recruiting, interviewing, hiring solid, mature Christians for summer staff
- Planning for summer camp—programming and facilities
- Continuation of Internship Program
- Ride with the King Programs
- Marriage Retreat [March 7-9]
- Spring BLASTS
- Many volunteers for Work Day and safety [Sat, April 26]
- Men's Retreat [April 11, 12]
- Safety for horseback riding and maintenance
- Open hearts, minds, ears, spirits of campers
- Campers are touched by the love and grace of the Lord
- Campers' desire to invite friends/family to Riverside Summer 2014

- Family Camp 2014 [July 1-4]
- Willing volunteers
- Continued generous giving

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
I Thessalonians 5:16-18

Spring Blasts!

The Blast is a fantastic one day event here at Riverside this spring. This event is perfect for busy youth groups or students, first time campers, and long time campers too as we pack as much fun and excitement as possible into one fun-filled day! We will continue to have Recharges each fall but with the springtime comes...THE BLAST!

Take one day, mix in all the fun of camp and what do you get? The Blast! This is a great opportunity for you to come and see what camp is all about. We start at 9:30 and go until 5:30. In the middle are games, chapel time, group building, lots of laughs, quiet time with God, great skits, carpetball, & lots of new friends to meet. So come check out The Blast here at Riverside each and every spring.

When? Grades 3-6: March 29th; Grades 7-12: April 5th

Summer Camp

Theme: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!" When we have a life in Christ, it changes everything. It changes our hearts, our minds, our attitudes, and our lives. The theme for Summer 2014 is In Christ because when we have a life rooted in Jesus, it changes everything.

Check out program and schedule on line – online registration available.

There is a member congregation discount of \$15.

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