



The Palestine Press

February 2016

Volume XXX Number 2
Monthly newsletter of
Palestine Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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Nels Dovre, Youth Liaison
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Reaching Out in Christian Love to All

Our Vision:

Palestine Lutheran Church will be a haven for all generations, a people worshipping and growing continually in relationship with Jesus, inspired by God's Word; a living example of stewardship, a loving and caring fellowship that reaches out in Christ-centered faith and love to the world.

Mission Statement:

"Palestine Lutheran Church exists to proclaim and live God's Holy Word, to nurture and support our membership, and to enable us to live our faith in our daily lives. As we are nourished, we are called to reach out to our communities, our spheres of influence, and to the wider world through the church-at-large."

Discovering "What is different in Lent this Year"

.....With Pastor Eric

We begin a new season of the church year this month. The journey begins with Ash Wednesday and moves on for 40 days into the wilderness of Lent on our way to Jerusalem and the cross. So what will be different about this year's journey? I ask myself that question every year. As a pastor, I am responsible for so much of the planning and shaping of the messages for the journey. You might say that I am the trip planner, host and tour guide along with the worship committee, altar guild and other leaders of community life at Palestine. I discovered over the years that my role is more facilitator than anything else because the story does not change, God does not seem to change, and the journey is rather predictable. The change that you encounter and confront is **"You."**

You are what makes this journey new and compelling every year. The traditional practices of the 40 day Lent journey – repentance, prayer, study of God's Word, service, worship, offering – are tools of the church and the Holy Spirit with which to examine our lives in the light of our relationship with God. This year our focus will blend the sacred with the ordinary. **What does it matter that God became one of us? What does it mean for you and me at this point in life that God became human?**

I have always found that answering these questions involves a "hard look in the mirror" and an honest look at the circumstances and relationships in my life. We might have to step outside of our comfort zones to begin examining these questions this season. I look forward to our time together this season along with the joys, struggles and discoveries that it holds for "you," "me" and "us".

Let us pray. Lord, as we make this journey of Lent into Holy Week, open our eyes and our hearts to your life-giving and transforming Word in worship and throughout our daily lives, so that we might respond and continually grow in the Spirit, and move deeper into relationship with you, in Jesus' name. Amen.



Palestine Lutheran Church

Worship & Study Opportunities- February 2016

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.]

Monday, February 1 2 p.m. Women of ELCA Bible study

Wednesday, February 3 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

Saturday, February 6

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

Sunday, February 7 *Transfiguration of Our Lord*

9:30 a.m. Worship: Holy Communion

Baptism of Evelyn Sophia Kam

10:45 a.m. Sunday School

Wednesday, February 10 *Ash Wednesday*

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

7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday worship

Saturday, February 13

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

Sunday, February 14 *1st Sunday in Lent*

9:30 a.m. Worship

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

Adult Class-“Water for Life”

Wednesday, February 17 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible study

6:00-6:45 pm Confirmation

7:00 p.m. Midweek Lenten worship

Saturday, February 20 7 a.m. Tri County Men's Bible study @ Ballard Creek

Sunday, February 21 *2nd Sunday in Lent*

9:30 a.m. Worship: Holy Communion

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

Adult Class-“Water for Life”

Wednesday, February 24 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible study

6:00-6:45 p.m. Confirmation

7:00 p.m. Midweek Lenten worship

Saturday, February 27 7 a.m. Tri County Men's Bible study @ Ballard Creek

Sunday, February 28 *3rd Sunday in Lent*

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:45 a.m. Sunday School; 1st Communion Class; Adult Class-“Water for Life”

SUNDAY ADULT STUDY FOR LENT Theme: Water for Life

Water is essential for life in every way to include economic independence and spiritual development. Not having access to water cripple families, threatens lives, and destroys opportunities and depletes life in all its' many gifts and facets. We will examine the use and image of

water in the Bible as the source of life for God's people from the waters of creation, to the desert wilderness and the baptismal waters of the first church communities.

Materials will be provided.

Meets Sundays at 10:45 am in Council Conference Room.

Daily Discipleship **themes which will be used for Wed.**

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 7 Transfiguration – **Primary Text:** Luke 9:28-43

Imperatives of Discipleship: *Listen!*

February 14 1st Sunday in Lent – **Primary Text:** Luke 4: 1-13

Prayers of Discipleship: *To serve God Alone*

February 21 2nd Sunday in Lent – **Primary Text:** Luke 13:31-35

Prayers of Discipleship: *To Finish One's Work*

February 28 3rd Sunday in Lent – **Primary Text:** Luke 13:1-9

Prayers of Discipleship: *To Be Patient*

March 6 4th Sunday in Lent – **Primary Text:** Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Prayers of Discipleship: *To Dwell in God's Grace*

March 13 5th Sunday in Lent – **Primary Text:** John 12:1-8

Prayers of Discipleship: *To Lavish Our Devotion Toward Christ*



Journey Into Lent & Holy Week

2016 Worship and Ministry Guide

will be available on our website www.plchuxley.com

under the calendar/ forms button on the home page or hard copies available in Fellowship Hall.

Contents include: What is Lent?

The Discipline of Lent: Discipline #1—Repentance

(confession); Discipline #2—Prayer (solitude, silence, worship); Discipline #3—Fasting and Abstinence (sacrifice, study); Discipline #4— Works of Love (service, celebration, submission); Beginning Your Lent Discipline; Keeping Your Lent Discipline

Making the Sign of the Cross

Should I Go to Confession?; How to Go to Confession?

From The Small Catechism

The Tradition of the Stations of the Cross

Holy Week—Triduum “Three Sacred Days”

Gethsemane Prayer Vigil; “The Last Supper” Maundy

Thursday; Good Friday; The Great Vigil of Easter and Easter Day

Blessings over Food at Easter

The Tradition of the Stations of the Resurrection

Appendices: Lent Discipline Worksheet; Palestine Lutheran Lent Schedule and Themes 2016; Palestine Lent Devotional Material for 2016; Palestine Holy Week Worship Schedule Overview 2016

PALESTINE LUTHERAN LENT SCHEDULE & THEMES for 2016

SUNDAYS IN LENT

Theme: Continuing in Your Baptismal Covenant
In the Affirmation of Baptism service, we affirm the relationship what God has made with us through Holy Baptism. We will focus each week on a portion of this covenant and consider the ways in which we are fulfilled in it and challenged by it as we live out this relationship and children of God and inheritors of life in Christ.

The devotion will offer a few brief comments related to the week's focus. Each worshiper will consider what the week's focus looks like in each of their lives. Ask worshipers to reflect on this question silently for a period of time, then to write or draw short responses on sticky notes. Place the sticky notes on a large sheet of newsprint or poster board each week in the fellowship hall. If it is possible to leave the notes in place from one week to the next, then worshipers will have a broader sense of what it means to live in the covenant of baptism.

MID-WEEK WEDNESDAY DEVOTIONS FOR LENT

(Simple meal 5:30-6:30 pm at Palestine /Confirmation 6:00-6:45 pm/worship 7:00 pm at Site)

Theme: **"So What if God Was One of Us?"**.

In 1996, a Grammy nominated song, "What if God Was One of Us?" took the world by storm and was considered the 45th most influential song of the 90's. Why? What cord in the our lives did it hit that resonated with such uniform appeal? Our Lenten journey together will explore these questions. We begin with the life-altering witness to God with us in flesh and blood and how that changes everything—our lives, our perspective, and our questions.

Offerings for Mid-week Meals will go towards
Designated Local and Water-2-Thrive Ministries
(50/50)

Wk 1—Feb 17—**"What if God Was One of Us?"** - Nord
Kalsem Sr. Center, Huxley

Wk 2—Feb 24— **"If God had a name what would it be?"** - Ballard West School, Slater

Wk 3—Mar 02— **"What would you ask if you had just one questions?"** - Ballard Creek, Huxley

Wk 4—Mar 09— **"If God has a face what would it look like?"** - Community Center, Cambridge

Wk 5 – Mar 16—**"What if God Was One of Us"** –
Huxley Firehouse, Huxley



The confirmation class will serve a brunch on Feb 28 after church for a free-will donation. All proceeds help fund their upcoming trip to Chicago.



First Communion classes

This year first communion classes will be during the Sunday School time (10:45-11:30) on February 14, 21, 28 and March 6th. Class will

meet in the church basement in the room across from the furnace room. 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, January 31st so she can order enough books.** Doreen's email is blackmer@hughes.net or you can call or text her at 515-777-6960.



Take a Bite out of Hunger

February 7th -
February 28th

Sunday School is having a food drive for the local food pantry. The class

with the most food at the end of the month will win breakfast during Sunday School on the 28th.

LOOKING DOWN THE ROAD –Vacation Bible School for 2016 is set for June 13-16 – stay tuned for opportunities to help with the day camp week. It will be back at Palestine Lutheran Church this summer.

We will again work in partnership with Fjeldberg Lutheran and it will be operated by Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp staff.

Looking Ahead

EASTER Sunday March 27

March 20 – 9:30 am Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion worship
March 23 – 7 pm Gethsemane Prayer Service
March 24 – 7 pm Maundy Thursday
“The TableTALKS” -1st Communion
March 25 – Good Friday –
2 pm Passion of Christ (movie)
5:30-6:45 pm The Stations of the Cross
7 pm Tenebrae Worship – “The Three Glances of Jesus”
March 26 – 2- 5 pm Easter Prayer Vigil –
“The Silent Tomb”

Sunday Soup: Evening with the Bishop



Sunday, February 21
4:30 pm — 7:00 pm
Memorial Lutheran Church
701 11th Street, Nevada, IA

All are welcome as congregations of the Southeastern Iowa Synod gather for an evening meal and to share stories of life and ministry. Bishop Burk will share his own thoughts and hopes for our life together as church, and facilitate conversation about how our connections to one another in Christ can bring to expression a bold and hopeful witness to our communities and to the whole world...all in the name of Jesus.

This is a free event, please bring a can of soup to donate to the local food pantry or a financial donation for ELCA World Hunger.



Volunteer schedule

Greeters

2/7 Tim & Shannon Wilson
..... Tom & Kristin Shelton
2/14 Tracy & Doreen Blackmer
..... Mike & Cindi Thomas
2/21 Dax & Haylie Clark
..... Ellen Huxford
2/28 Laura Kepler
..... Dick & Helen Kepler

Acolytes –

2/7
2/14
2/21
2/28

Lectors -

to be contacted

Ushers

Bill Harleen, captain Brent Larson
David Eisenmann Brad Lewis

Sunday Fellowship

Families who greet also serve beverages for fellowship.

Communion Assistants

to be contacted

Offering Counters

Cindi Thomas, Nancy Fausch, Brad Lewis

Altar Ministry

Cindi Thomas, Melanie Fausch

Snow Removal

Feb 1-7 Jeff Kruse
Feb 8-14 Jeff Kruse
Feb 15-21
Feb 22-28
Feb 29-March 6

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

Reservation form available online
under forms/calendar button for
ROCK

Candlelight Valentines Dinner

@ Palestine Lutheran Church,
Sunday, February 14
with seatings at 5 & 7
childcare provided for 5 seating
Reservations due by February 10



Wednesday, February 17
9:30 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.

This program is supported in part through a grant from the ELCA World Hunger (Domestic Hunger Grant) and has been planned in partnership with the

three Iowa synods of the ELCA.

Join LSI (Lutheran Services in Iowa) and the three Iowa synods of the ELCA for Lutheran Day on the Hill in Des Moines! This day is essential for giving voice to those who are not heard, for seeking social justice and for empowering people to exercise their right and responsibility to be part of the legislative process.

Do you ever hear about big problems in this world and feel helpless? Like you can't make an impact? Human welfare, environmental and political issues that seem so massive and far away? Issues like:

- Refugee quality of life
- Water quality
- Human trafficking
- Racial disparity in the criminal justice system
- Families in crisis

Today you can make a difference. Add your voice to those of your fellow concerned sisters and brothers at the Iowa State Capitol for Lutheran Day on the Hill 2016.

The day's schedule includes:

- Meet at 9:30 a.m. for a morning training session with speakers @ Capitol Hill Lutheran Church, later heading over to the Iowa Capitol.
- Sack lunch provided by LSI
- Time to meet with legislators at the Iowa State Capitol building

Register by Jan. 28 to be guaranteed a T-shirt. If you have a shirt from a previous event, please wear the T-shirt you received to help us be good stewards of our resources.

Advocacy Resources available online

www.LSIowa.org/advocacy

[Visit this site to find your legislators' names and seat numbers.](#) You'll also want to review the information below, which will be provided in your packet at the event- you can register online:

- [2016 Agenda](#)
- [2016 Advocacy Issues](#)
- [Advocacy Tips](#)
- [Additional information on Family Investment Program \(FIP\) basic grants](#)
- [LDH Letter Writing Kit 2016](#)
 - Join us in a special congregational letter writing campaign. Our plan is to deliver letters from Lutherans all across the state to the Iowa House and Senate.
- [Download the editable letter in Word format](#)

Follow the day on Twitter with @LSIowa. Use [#LDH16](#) to share co conversation throughout the day.

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

A treasurer's report appears within the Council minutes. A complete yearend report appears in the Annual Report.

Building Addition Loan Update

The principal balance on the loan will be paid in full by the end of January. Thanks go out to everyone for their contributions – both financially as well as talents shared (from planning to furnishing). In 2002 a Space Utilization Committee was formed to "discuss space utilization within the church and our options for future expansion." Various information meetings were held in 2003 & 2004 and on May 16, 2004 the congregation met and approved the building addition. The building fund was established in June 2004. On January 23, 2005 we dedicated the new addition as a part of the yearlong 150th Anniversary Celebration.

February Council Meeting – to be announced

Volunteers are still needed for sidewalk snow removal around the church.

Church Council 2016

Pastor Eric Klimpel
President: Matt Williams Vice President: Jeff Van Pelt
Secretary: Jacob Huxford Treasurer: Deidre Qual
Financial Sec'y: Dick Kepler
Council: Mark Doty

Nels Dovre	Jean Saveraid
Bruce Hartman	Kristin Shelton
Cynthia Johnson	Tim Wilson
Laura Kepler	Lora Young



The Annual Meeting was held January 24th. A list of operational committees will appear in the March Palestine Press after

Committee Chairs and Secretaries are named for each committee. A general fund budget of \$220,186.04 was approved. \$4,234.35 is needed weekly to meet this budget. 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.

Attention Committee Chairs – Updated 3 ring binder of Time & Talent is available on the counter in the workroom listing those willing to serve on various committees and activities.

**Minutes -- Palestine Lutheran Church Council Meeting
January 10th, 2016-- Sunday -- 8:00 AM
[not yet approved]**

In Attendance: Pastor Eric Klimpel, Dick Kepler, Deidre Qual, Laura Kepler, Mike Thomas, Bruce Hartman, Cynthia Johnson, Kristin Shelton, Nels Dovre, Jeff Van Pelt, Jacob Huxford, Mark Doty, Lora Young, and Brad Lewis. A quorum was established.

Devotions -- Jacob

Read Vision and Mission Statements

Goals and Reflections -- To provide the leadership to bridge the next year

Minutes of the previous meetings(s) –

Lora Young moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, Jeff Van Pelt seconded. Motion passed unanimously

Treasurer's Report – Deidre

As of January 9, 2016

Benevolence:	10.00
Building Addition:	8,823.24
Building Improvement:	1,732.49
Confirmation:	1,170.55
General Fund Checking:	5,268.62
Technology:	1,300.00
Total:	18,304.90

Laura Kepler moved to approve treasurer's report, Bruce Hartman seconded it. Motion passed unanimously

Pastor's Report -- Pastor Klimpel

- See his report.

New business:

1. Approval of Baptism of Evelyn Sophia Kam, daughter of Jason and Melinda Kam, Feb 7th.
Kristin Shelton moved to approve the baptism, Nels seconded. Motion passed unanimously

Old Business:

1. Wedding Policy Discussion -- Approval of Rework
Bruce moved to approve the changes to the wedding policy, Laura Kepler seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously

1. Approval of 2016 Budget

- a.-- Senior Choir Director
- b.-- Pastor Raise/Pastoral Ministry

- Mark moved to approve a 3% raise to Pastor Eric, Jacob Seconded it. Motion passed unanimously
- Jeff Van Pelt moved to give Pastor Eric an appreciation gift of \$746.00 Bruce seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.
- Lora Young moved to move the timeline of Pastor Eric's contract from August 1st to January 1st, Deidre Qual seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously
- Kristin Shelton moved to give Pastor Eric a second appreciation gift of \$746.00 to get caught up for moving his contract timeline, Nels seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously

C.-- Other Changes

- Mission Outreach – Nels moved to add \$100.00 in the budget for Meals for the Heartland, Mark Doty seconded it. Motion passed unanimously

Totals:

- Pastoral Ministry:
 - Pension/ Health insurance to \$36000.00
 - Social Security allowance to \$4611.00
 - Total Pastoral Ministry: \$103,416.04
- Mission Outreach:
 - Total Mission Outreach: \$6,400.00
- **Total Approved 2016 Budget: \$235,002.04**

Lora Young moved to approve the changes and the 2016 budget, Bruce Hartman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Parsonage - Kitchen Discussion
3. Annual Meeting January 17th -- Nels Devotions, ROCK group doing meal afterwards
4. Membership rolls update. – Cynthia
5. Palestine Peppy Pushers request to use Church on Sunday nights for meetings.

Jeff Van Pelt moved to let the Palestine Peppy Pushers use the church for meetings, Jacob Huxford seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Next town hall meeting January 10th, 2016 Screens

Adjourn with Lords Prayer

Next meeting? --
February Devotions?

Jacob moved to adjourn meeting, Brad seconded. Motion passed unanimously



February Birthdays

- 3 - Hauge, Michael
- 6 - Thomas, Alexander
Twedt, Grant
- 8 - Nelson, Richard
Saveraid, David
- 9 - Larson, Alvina (95th)
Shelton, Tom
- 11 - Shelton, Gabe
Shelton, Kristin
VanPelt, Alise
- 13 - Brendeland, Charles
Cast, Bernadine
Kopaska, Deb
- 15 - Larson, Virgil
Teig, Dustin
- 16 - Brendeland, Anita
Kam, Melinda
Maland, Elizabeth (103)
Ness, Toni
- 17 - Halverson, Garrett
Williams, Matthew
- 18 - Gotta, Nina
Saveraid, Katherine
- 21 - Halverson, Austin
- 22 - Lewis, Aubrey
Rasmussen, Cheryl
Thomas, Cindi
- 23 - Lee, Steve
- 24 - Medici, Stacie
- 27 - Larson, Aaron
- 28 - Simmons, Dean
- 29 - Dykstra, Travis

CELEBRATE!

- * There will be an OPEN HOUSE to celebrate Elizabeth Maland's 103rd birthday on Saturday, February 13 in the dining room at Ballard Creek from 2-3:30 p.m.
- * The family of Alvina Larson invite you to help her celebrate her 95th birthday (February 9) with a card shower. Her address is 1675 NE 166th Ave, Huxley, IA 50124

Celebrating Their ANNIVERSARY

FEBRUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

- 14 - Deidre Qual & Merlin Lyon
- 16 - Jason & Melinda Kam
- 24 - Leonard & Sue Larson

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



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.

Remember in Prayer

The following were included in the Prayers of the Church during January: Anita Brendeland; Karen Esk; Ordean Johnson; Merlin Lyon; Deidre Qual; Lorraine Sorensen; Bob Wetzler; the Davis family

- Krishna & his family of India, child sponsored by Palestine's Sunday School students.
- Those impacted by flooding, earthquakes, tsunamis, storms, tornadoes, drought & wild fires.
- Those impacted by terrorist attacks in Paris, Beirut, Egypt and elsewhere in the Middle East, in Nigeria, Kenya, Bangladesh & the Philippines.
- Syrian refugees.

We extend our prayers and sincerest Christian sympathy... to family and friends of **Janice Vetter** (daughter of Elinor Anderson Christiansen) May the risen Lord give his strength & comfort to her family in their time of loss.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES

from **Iowa State University** @ university's winter commencement ceremonies...

...**David Eisenmann** with a Ph.D. degree in material science and engineering

If you know of others of our members who have graduated mid-year, please notify the office so that we can acknowledge this achievement.

Seeking Milestone Ministry Coordinator

Looking for a way to use your time and talents for Palestine?

We are seeking a coordinator for our Milestone Ministry. Role includes: coordinating recognition of faith milestones, gifts, and communications with Congregation. Please let Erika Williams (515-229-7897 or erikawllms@gmail.com) or Pastor Eric if you have questions or are interested in the role.

Prayer Partners for 50 Days

Beginning on Ash Wednesday—you are invited to submit your name into the prayer basket and take out a name at random in order to pray for that family (person) for the next 50 Days. Each person who puts their name into the basket agrees to have a partner and will be expected to contact that person (family), so that you might build a prayer support relationship. We ask for everyone to trust the Holy Spirit to guide who your partner will be—so a random selection shall be made after a brief prayer for guidance. (Begins 50 days from taking up a name).

"50" is the number of "first fruits" and thanksgiving. We celebrate the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost (meaning "50")

PALESTINE WOMEN OF ELCA

Monday, February 1, 2:00 p.m. Bible Study.

In the January-February issue of the *Gather* magazine we began a four-session Bible study of an exploration of the book of Philippians, written by **E. Louise Williams** and the **Rev. Phyllis N. Kersten**, two regular contributors to *Gather* (and our former publication *Lutheran Woman Today*). Louise and Phyllis wrote the 1990 Women of the ELCA Bible study, "Companions on Your Journey." Phyllis, a retired pastor, lives in a suburb of Chicago, and Louise, executive director emerita of the Lutheran Deaconess Association, lives in Valparaiso, Ind.

CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP 101

Session 1 Confidence in God's Beginnings and Endings
(Philippians 1:1-26)

Session 2 Servant-Shaped Soldiers
(Philippians 1:27-2:18)

Session 3 Being of One Mind (Philippians 2:19-4:3)

Session 4 Keep On Keeping On (Philippians 4:4-23)

With Philippians 1:27, Paul's tone changes from narration and reflection to exhortation and teaching for this beloved community. This session's verses give the heart of Paul's message – living as a united community following Christ. The three things Paul specifically mentions in v. 27 are "standing firm," "striving side by side," and being "in no way intimidated by your opponents."

Goals/Objectives for Session 2 are:

explore Paul's call to a countercultural approach to citizenship shaped by the gospel.

see Jesus Christ as both a model and power for living a servant-shaped life.

explore how their own lives, especially within their Christian community, express the mind of Christ.

The theme for the January-February 2016 *Gather* magazine is **CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP 101**. What does it mean to conduct our lives as citizens of the commonwealth of Jesus Christ, where the gospel reigns?

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



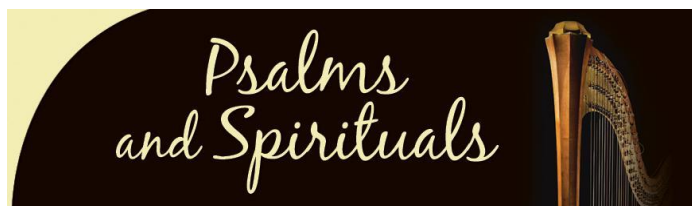
Blood Drive
February 8
The spring Life
Serve Blood Drive

at Palestine is on Monday, February 8 from 3-7:00 PM.

You may reserve a spot by contacting Deb Moore either at church or by calling 515-460-1037. You can also schedule online at: <http://www.lifeservebloodcenter.org/donate>.

Traditionally, about two thirds of blood donors at Palestine's blood drives are church members! Thanks in advance for making the upcoming blood drive as success!

To be eligible to donate, donors must be at least 16 years of age (16 and 17 year old first time blood donors must have a signed parental/guardian consent form). Donors must weigh at least 120 pounds and be in general good health. An ID pre-printed with the donor name is required at registration. Donors are encouraged to eat a good meal and drink plenty of water before donating blood.



with the National Lutheran Choir

Join the National Lutheran Choir led by artistic director and organist, David Cherwien for a unique blend of choral music, spoken reflections and congregational hymnody. Experience the artistry of the National Lutheran Choir as they perform songs of faith, and join together in singing well-known – perhaps new – hymns with the choir! This special concert will feature works by James Miller, André Thomas, as well as Stanford and Cherwien.

Saturday, February 20, 2016 – 7 pm

First United Methodist Church, 516 Kellogg Ave,
Ames, IA 50010

The National Lutheran Choir, under the direction of Dr. David Cherwien, seeks to strengthen, renew and preserve the heritage of sacred choral music through the highest standards of performance and literature.

To learn more about the choir, visit www.NLCA.com, on Facebook and Twitter @NLChoir, and on YouTube.



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 in 2016

Feb. 14 – Annual Meeting
Feb. 15 – Early Bird Discount for summer camp
Feb. 20 – Daddy-Daughter Dance
March 4-6 – Marriage Retreat
April 2 – Juniors Blast
April 9 – Junior High/Senior High Blast
April 9 – Gala
April 11 – Partner Dinner
April 30 – Volunteer Work Day
May 7 – Lil Cowpoke
May 14 – Volunteer Work Day (rain date)
May 25-27 – Leadership Training
May 29-June 10 – Staff Training
June 9 – Program Review
June 12 – First Day of Camp
July 5-8 – Family Camp
Aug. 6 – Quilt Auction & 5K
Aug. 12 – Last Day of Camp
Aug. 26 – Golf Outing
Aug. 27-28 – Mother/Daughter Ride with the King
Sept. 17-18 – Women's Retreat
Oct. 1 – Ride with the King (3rd – 5th grade)
Oct. 14-16 – Juniors Recharge
Oct. 21-23 – Junior High Recharge
Nov. 4-6 – Junior High Recharge
Nov. 18-20 – Senior High Recharge
Dec. 4 – Riverside Christmas Party

Daddy Daughter Dance: February 20, 2016

Every daughter is a princess of the King! There were sparkles everywhere – all around the lit-up dining hall, lots of sparkly dresses and many, many sparkly eyes as the daddies and their princesses arrived last February. What a joy it was to watch daddies and daughters swirling and twirling, laughing, and enjoying each other to the fullest! Daddies, plan to bring your princess(es) to the Riverside Dining Hall on **Saturday, February 20** from 6:00-8:00 pm! Let's treasure those daughters of all ages! The evening will be filled with dance music by a DJ, snacks, and pictures. Dance instructions will be included. Cost is \$5 per person with a \$20 per family maximum. Registering online or calling the office ahead of time is extremely helpful; however, walk-ins are welcome.

Riverside Marriage Retreat: March 4-6, 2016

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. The Marriage Retreat is a time to get away from our normal schedules, demands as being parents, housework, yard work, (shoveling snow), 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.

Housing Options & Fee

\$140 - Riverside housing - couples stay in individual cabins or rooms.

\$110 - Commute - sleep at home, or make your own reservation at a local hotel, and attend all of the programming at camp. Possible Story City hotels - Comfort Inn 515.733.6363 or Viking Inn 515.733.4306

*Fee includes all meals and programming

REGISTER NOW!

Register online or by downloading and mailing in the registration form by February 26th, to make sure you have a spot! Online registrations are open until Wednesday, March 2 at midnight, or you can register by calling the office up until Wednesday, March 2 at 5:00 pm. 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 Gala: 2016

Join us for another elegant evening of exquisite dining and auction fun at this year's Gala on April 9, 2016. This year's Gala will not be at Riverside, but rather the Holiday Inn Ames Conference Center at ISU. There will be music, food, and of course the auction. All of the proceeds raised at this great event will go towards the Living Water, Living Word capital campaign, which is funding the restoring of the Riverside chapel and the building of a new pool.

Evening Schedule: 6:00 pm - Hors d'oeuvres
7:00 pm - Dinner
Auction and Dancing to follow

Dress: This is a black tie optional event.

Registration: To register, please use the supporting events section of our online registration or call our office at 515.733.5271.

Entrance for the evening's festivities is \$100 per person. You may also reserve a table for up to ten people for \$1000.

If you are unable to attend the Gala, but would still like to support this great event, we will accept bids on items at the auction over the phone until Friday, April 8 at 5:00 pm. Just call the office at 515-733-5271 and ask to speak with Dave McDermott or John Foster to place a bid.

Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp Summer 2016: Released



Registration is now open for Summer Camp 2016! You can head over to our [website www.RiversideLBC.org](http://www.RiversideLBC.org) to learn more about all of our camp offerings, dates, theme, and what it is like to be a camper at Riverside! Riverside Times booklet available on table below bulletin board in Fellowship Hall which includes a registration form. At registration there is a \$125 non-refundable deposit.

We are excited to see what the Lord will do in the lives of our campers, families, and staff, as we see God's love "Released" into the world through Jesus Christ and now through us. Our theme verse comes from Luke 4:18-19 and says, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." We can't wait to dive into this passage and our theme of "Released" even more this summer!

Discounts

Member Congregations

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

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 at Riverside. Please check with church office for details.

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.

Camperships Available

No one is turned away from Riverside for financial reasons. If you can't afford a week of camp, please contact your church for assistance. If more assistance is needed, please contact Riverside.

Early Bird Discount! Register on or before February 15, 2016.

Early bird discount is:

- \$15 discount for Alpha program
- \$20 discount for Juniors/Jr. High/Sr. High
- \$20 discount for Ranch Camp
- \$15 discount for Adventure Camp

Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp Summer 2016 Dates List

Full fee is listed. Fee with early bird discount is listed in brackets [].

Below *Denotes Peanut free week

Alpha Camp (entering grades 3-4) Fee: \$235

[\$220 before 2/15]

Dates: June 19-21*, June 22-24*, July 17-19, July 20-22,
July 31-August 2, August 3-5

Juniors (entering grades 4-6) Fee: \$445

[\$425 before 2/15]

Dates: June 19-24*, July 17-22, July 31-August 5

Junior High (entering grades 6-9) Fee: \$445

[\$425 before 2/15]

Dates: June 12-17*, June 26-July 1, July 10-15*, August 7-12

Juniors Adventure (entering grades 4-6) Fee: \$470

[\$455 before 2/15]

Dates: June 19-24*, July 31-August 5

Intermediate Adventure (entering grades 7-9) Fee: \$480

[\$465 before 2/15]

Dates: 1 Girls cabin and 1 Boys cabin June 12-17*,
Boys Only June 26-July 1, Girls Only July 10-15*,
1 Girls cabin and 1 Boys cabin August 7-12

High Adventure (entering grades 10-12 and entering

college) Fee: \$500 [\$485 before 2/15]

Dates: July 17-22

Senior High (entering grades 10-12 and entering college)

Fee: \$445 [\$425 before 2/15]

Dates: July 24-29

Juniors Ranch (entering grade 5) Fee: \$495

[\$475 before 2/15]

Dates: June 12-17*

Ranch Camp (entering grades 6-9) Fee: \$495

[\$475 before 2/15]

Dates: June 12-17*, June 19-24*, June 26-July 1, July 10-15*,
July 17-22, July 31-August 5, August 7-12

Intermediate Ranch Fee: \$495 [\$475 before 2/15]

This week is for those of you who have attended Riverside's Ranch Camp or Intermediate Ranch Camp and are 14 years old by June 1, 2016. If you have already attended Ranch Camp at Riverside for 2 years and you are 13 years old by June 1, 2016, you may also attend.

Dates: June 26-July 1, July 10-15*, July 24-29 (entering grades 9-12 and entering college only), August 7-12

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

Embracing diversity. In its February issue, *The Lutheran* focuses on multicultural congregations and their successes and struggles. You can read how truly inclusive membership requires intention and support. And find resources for further conversation. In the “Deeper understandings” column, ask if multicultural ministry is a matter of faith or a fad. To help your discussion of the cover story, visit www.thelutheran.org and click on “Study guides” on the left-hand side.

Getting to know you. In her February column for *The Lutheran*, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton says it’s time for a conversation about priorities and the future direction of this church. But first “we need to know who we are or what we do.”

Curious? *The Lutheran* is a resource for adult forums and individual study. In the February issue, discuss “Curiosity” with columnist Peter Marty, who says questions may be our desire to kindle a relationship with the Lord. Think about “A survival guide for Lent.” And reflect on “A life laid down” and challenging times for the church (to help your discussion of this article, visit www.thelutheran.org for a study guide).

Burnout and more. In the February issue of *The Lutheran*, learn how to avoid volunteer exhaustion in “Burnout blues” ... **think** about re-branding in “What’s in a name?” ... **meet** a retired pastor who created a “Chapel of love” and another whose world was bound together by “Our Father” ... consider starting a poetry café or taking Ash Wednesday to the streets ... and **get** the editor’s final thoughts after 10 years of service.

Reaching out. In the February issue of *The Lutheran*, see how Lutherans support others. In “A place to start over,” a Lutheran agency helps Syrians find refuge in Michigan. Discover how a Minnesota church’s furnishings found a new home with a new congregation in Wisconsin. Learn how immersion programs build bridges for American Indian ministries. And see how a garden grows reconciliation in Botswana.

Coming up in future issues of The Lutheran:

- **March cover story:** We talk about church as a place where “all are welcome,” but just how do we do this?
- **Spaces:** Do our church buildings convey welcome?
- **Easter:** Reflection on the season.
- **It’s cold outside:** What do outdoor ministries do in their “off” season?
- **South Sudan:** Ministry among refugees.
- **Women:** How can the ELCA continue to embrace female leadership?
- **On air:** Minneapolis congregation reaches out with radio program—it’s popular among millennials.



Happy Valentine's Day from LSI!

“We love because he first loved us.” 1 John 4:19

Lutheran Services in Iowa’s (LSI) mission is about love: responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. We give thanks for all the ministry partners of both individuals and congregations who help share this love for Iowa children, families and adults! We see this love in newly adopted children and their families, in teens who learn to trade self-harm for self-worth, in refugee farmers who share their love of the land with the Des Moines community, in struggling parents who learn positive ways to build love and trust with their children and in so many other moments of hope every day. Thank you for the love you share and create through LSI.

Happy Valentine’s Day!

LSI is proud to be an affiliated social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

A Nurturing Heart

Megan thought it sounded crazy.

Her Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) Families Together worker, Gaylene, had told her about the Nurtured Heart Approach, a strategy that could help Megan address the behaviors of her young children.

“I thought, ‘This will not work on my kids,’” Megan said.

Guess what? It works!

Nurtured Heart Approach® (NHA) is one of many strategies LSI staff share with families. NHA is a philosophy that helps people create healthy relationships with each other. For parents, it is a way to focus their energy on creating opportunities for their children to succeed and helping children build positive inner worth.

“Everyone should do it,” Megan said. “It’s benefited my kids so much. Before there was more screaming or yelling. Now there is more trust and a better relationship.”

As a young mom, Megan first learned about LSI’s Families Together program at her local public health clinic. With her fiancée Alberto often traveling for work, Megan is usually home alone all day with three children under age three. Now LSI is helping Megan build a support system of resources and strategies, so Megan doesn’t have to do it alone.

“These are big steps for me,” she said. “Since I’ve been meeting with LSI, I’ve been doing things I never would have done.”

Megan has accomplished so much already, and she is building her community connections, too, by helping with a local parent nutrition group.

Now that’s truly linking “Families Together!”