

The Palestine Press

March 2018

Volume XXXII Number 3
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."

Is it time for a spiritual check-up? with Pastor Eric

Many of you have probably noticed that I pull out a pair of "cheaters" (*otherwise known as low strength reading glasses*) every once and a while. Actually, I am using these glasses more often than I would care to admit. I must write that I am more than aware that I am currently the only one in my immediate family both as a son and as a father who does not wear glasses. My beloved wife, Teri, confronted me the other night at the dinner table with the request to go and have my eyes checked. I have been refusing profusely for months with the same claim – **"I can see just fine!"** My family responds the same way, "You will not know for sure until you get them checked properly." Their argument is that I am used to seeing a certain way and may not even realize what I am truly missing of the world around me.

I believe that we tend to treat our spiritual life just like I approach my vision issues. We get into routines and embrace traditions without reflecting on *"what we are doing?"* or *"why we are doing it?"* Maybe there is fear over what we might discover? Or what it may cost us? The forty days of Lent is a great time to explore our routines and their meaning because we can do it together as a community in Christ. We might even decide to stir things up a bit and try something different which does not mean add another thing to our schedule but the opposite – simply remove something that we have always done. We can ask some tough questions of ourselves and take in the moment like a deep breath. Lent is giving us permission to do a spiritual check-up, or inventory in the midst of our daily life. Deep down you and I both know that we are missing out, or there has to be more, or maybe we just need a break! Let us not use "cheaters" but take Lent seriously and make the time to pray, worship, read, and try something different to help someone over the next few weeks. I cannot guarantee that you might not discover something challenging, or a bit unsettling; however, God promises that it will lead to something healthy and growth producing.

God is with you regardless of where you are or what you are doing and maybe it is time to get reacquainted as you engage life. You might learn

something new about yourself, your family, or your faith? You might even become reinvigorated in those traditions and rituals that you love.

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, walk with us in Lent, open our lives to all that we are missing for our good and the good of the world, so that we might respond in thanksgiving and love in word and deed and bear witness to your glory, in Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

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, February 11, 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.

Alisha and Bruce Cox - Bruce is a manufacturing engineer. Bruce's interests include family, archery, knife making, hunting, fishing, and mechanic work. Alisha worked as infant room lead teacher before going on disability. She is artistic and likes to draw. Her interests include photography especially taking pictures of family.



Lenten table in Fellowship Hall Items available 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- March 2018

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

Saturday, March 3

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

9:30 a.m. Adult Study for Lent: Faces of Christ

11 a.m. Funeral for Irma Elliott

Sunday, March 4 3rd Sunday in Lent

9:30 a.m. Worship: Holy Communion; Children's Church;
Guest Preacher – Carl Grulke (Lutheran Bible Translators)

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

11 am Adult Study for Lent: Faces of Christ

Mon, March 5 2 p.m. Palestine Women of ELCA Bible study

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

6:15 p.m. Confirmation

7:00 p.m. Mid-week Lenten Worship: "Hagar Discovers God's Well" with Pastor Erick Swanson

Saturday, March 10

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

9:30 a.m. Adult Study for Lent: Faces of Christ

Sunday, March 11 4th Sunday in Lent

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

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

Wednesday, March 14 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study

NO Confirmation class – spring break

7:00 p.m. Mid-week Lenten Worship: "Noah and the Animals" with Pastor Heidi Williams

Saturday, March 17

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

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

Sunday, March 18 5th Sunday in Lent

9:30 a.m. Worship: Holy Communion; Children's Church;
Blessing of Soap for Hope

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

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

Wednesday, March 21 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study

6:15 p.m. Confirmation

7 p.m. Mid-week worship: "the Israelites Drink" with
Pastor Marcus Badgley

Saturday, March 24

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

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

Sunday, March 25 Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion

9:30 a.m. Worship: Children's Church; Blessing of Quilts

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

Wednesday, March 28 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible study

NO Confirmation class – attend 2 worship services during Holy Week

7 p.m. Gethesame Prayer "At the Crossroads"

Thursday, March 29 *Maundy Thursday*

7 p.m. Worship: "At the Crossroads" – 1st Communion, washing feet, strip the altar as the darkness grows around the life of Jesus and his followers.

Friday, March 30 *Good Friday*

2 p.m. Passion of Christ (movie)

5:30-6:45 p.m. The Stations of the Cross

7 p.m. Tenebrae Worship

Saturday, March 31

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

2-5 p.m. Easter Prayer Vigil – "The Silent Tomb"

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

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

The Path of Discipleship: *Through the Maze*

March 11 4th Sunday in Lent – **Primary Text:** John 3:14-21

The Path of Discipleship: *Within the Light*

March 18 5th Sunday in Lent –

Primary Text: John 12:20-33

The Path of Discipleship: *In the Footsteps*

March 25 Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion–

Primary Text: Mark 14:1-15:47

The Path of Discipleship: *Beneath the Cross*

April 1 Easter – **Primary Text:** Mark 16:1-8

The Path of Discipleship: *Beyond the Grave*

June 18-21 **Vacation Bible School!**

VBS will be held jointly with Fjeldberg Lutheran Church.

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

The theme is "Seek First," coming from Matthew 6:33, "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all of these things will be given to you." We pray that every camper who experiences Riverside this summer will come to know the great love of Jesus and what it means to seek first after God and His Kingdom. His way in every aspect of our lives. We will be incorporating an "Around the World theme" to make it even more realistic for the youth we will be impacting.

Registration forms will be available soon!



Council Retreat – is RESCHEDULED for March 24th 9 am – 4 pm @ Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp, Story City [due to weather on the original date of February 24th] - 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.

Community Education Lunch and Learn

@ the Cedars, 600 N Kennedy, Madrid, IA 50156
(part of the Madrid Home Communities)

Know the 10 Warning Signs

Thursday, March 22, 2018

Program 11:00 a.m. Lunch 12:00-1:00 p.m.

The Alzheimer's Association *Know the 10 Signs: Early Detection Matters* workshop provides attendees with an understanding of the difference between age-related memory loss and Alzheimer's and what to do if they or someone they know has signs of the disease.

RSVP to Anne Marie Finkelsteind by 3/20/18

515.236.1049 or amfinkelstein@madridhome.com

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 @
Palestine)

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. Local area pastors will be taking turns preaching at the different churches under the theme "The Water and the Witness". Following is the schedule for Palestine. Pastor's from Bethlehem, Fjeldberg, Madrid Home, Palestine, and St. John's are rotating to the different churches to share the word on Wednesday's in Lent.

Feb 21 – "The Israelites Escape" - Pastor Eric Klimpel
Feb 28 – "The Woman at the Well" – Pastor Carla Werre
3/7 – "Hagar Discovers God's Well" – Pastor Erik Swanson
3/14 – "Noah and the Animals" – Pastor Heidi Williams
3/21 – "The Israelites Drink" – Pastor Marcus Badgley

Offerings for Mid-week Meals & Worship will go towards Bucket Challenge for ELCA World Hunger Water Projects
[Unless otherwise noted]

SOAP FOR HOPE! –2018

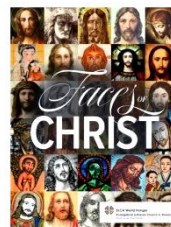
Beginning Ash Wednesday, we will gather soaps for personal hygiene and cleaning laundry and linens. We will also gather toothbrushes and toothpaste. These are items that people need to stay healthy and promote a better sense of esteem and social interaction. Items of this nature are not usually allowed 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 3/4,18,25) - Palestine Lutheran Conference Room

Lenten Materials for 2018 available on tables in Fellowship Hall

Journey into Lent & Holy Week 2018 Worship and Ministry Guide (also available on our website under the Calendar/Forms button.)

Practicing Love Family Devotions for Lent

Leah & Robyn Perrault

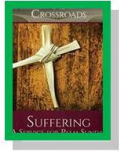
This booklet is filled with reflections & activities that gently invite the whole family to practice love for Lent, even though love never goes out of season.

(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 and disappointments—those times when faith and 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.

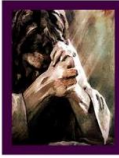


HOLY WEEK



AT THE CROSSROADS—PALM SUNDAY (Sun, March 25 at 9:30am)

We enter Jerusalem with Jesus to shouts of Hosanna! He knows the suffering that awaits him there, yet he does not turn back.—**Blessing of the Quilts, Passion Prayer Observance and Blessing of the Soap for Hope** (collected)



AT THE CROSSROADS—GETHSEMANE SERVICE (Wed, March 28 @ 7:00 pm)

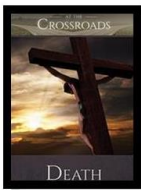
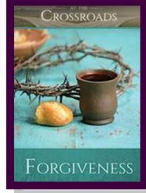
Jesus struggles in prayer with God—seeking strength and help for what he must do. We accompany him while asking the same of our Heavenly Father in the silence of the Mount of Olives.—**Candlelight prayer**



At the Crossroads—Maundy Thursday (March 29 @ 7:00 pm)

Our Lord eats the Passover one last time with his followers. He institutes a holy act in the Supper for forgiveness of sin and washing of feet for a servant's heart. We will strip the altar as the darkness grows around the life of Jesus and his followers.

First Communion will be celebrated (option) and **washing of feet** (observance)



AT THE CROSSROADS—GOOD FRIDAY (March 30 @ 7:00 pm)

When Jesus is on the cross, he accepts the power of death upon himself and does not turn away from it. We, too, must face death when it comes and not turn away from it, knowing that his salvation awaits us on the other side.

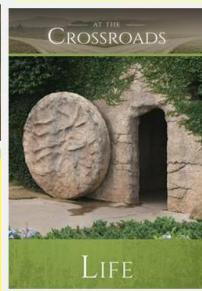
The Passion of the Christ (Movie) - begin our journey at 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

The Stations of the Cross will be open from 5:30 p.m. until 6:45 p.m.

Tenebrae Worship Experience will begin at 7:00 p.m.

EASTER PRAYER VIGIL "THE SILENT TOMB" (March 31 from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm)

From the silence of the tomb comes a voice of hope, a promise of life in the midst of death—something is happening! **Silent Prayer Vigil**



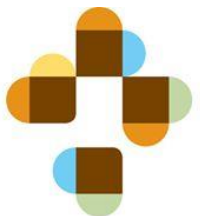
EASTER SUNDAY!

(April 1 @ 7:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.)

The Tomb is empty! Christ is Risen! Alleluia! Time to Celebrate!

EARLY SERVICE (YOUTH-LED)

EASTER SPECIAL OFFERING



Joppa Outreach

JOPPA - Based in Des Moines, Iowa (more about it over the month in worship)

[some points of interest - our youth are planning to work with JOPPA this summer, and Pat and Lyle Martin's daughter Colleen heads up the medical ministry through JOPPA, the founder Joe Stevens visited Palestine during the Conference 1 Synod Gathering in November, 2017]

JOPPA HELPS HOMELESS PEOPLE SURVIVE, FIND HOUSING AND REBUILD THEIR LIVES!

Our mission is to create a community of unconditional love, support and hope for the homeless as we work together to prevent and ultimately end homelessness.

Rather than relying on government funding or creating redundant services, Joppa collaborates with other agencies, helps people access resources, and develops unique programs that fill gaps and meet unmet needs in outreach, housing and education.

Outreach: Survival, Support & Hope

Housing: Tiny Homes & Uniquely Affordable Cottages

Education: Joppa KIDS Making a Difference

Each week, Joppa volunteers visit 200 – 225 people living under bridges, in tents, vehicles and recently off the streets. Joppa depends entirely on private donations from individuals, families, churches, sponsors and other organizations. As a result of this support, Joppa has helped nearly 300 men, women and children get off the streets since 2008, 86% remain in housing today. Joppa is a local, volunteer-driven organization with less than 5% administrative costs which means 95% of each gift benefits the people most in need right here in our community. Learn more at www.joppa.org

"In Joppa, there was a disciple named Tabitha, who was always doing good and helping the poor." Acts 9:36 NIV

This is a special offering in addition to the regular weekly offering. Easter offering envelopes are available in Fellowship Hall or indicate on your weekly offering envelope in the other section the amount to go to Joppa

or on your check memo line the amount to be given to Joppa. You may also give via Online Giving available through Easytithes.com. All you need to do is go to our webpage www.plchuxley.com and click on the "Online Giving" button to sign up and give.

OPERATIONAL COMMITTEES**Cemetery Committee**

Helen Kepler
 Ken Larson
 Richard Nelson
 Garry Wirtz
 Leonard Larson, chair
 Merle Brendeland

Property/Parsonage Committee

Lowell Elliott
 Jim Gotta
 Bill Harleen
 Greg Hartsook
 Mike Larson
 Ron Locker
 Tracy Sheldahl
 Julie Huxford

Christian Education

Julie Emerson
 Christa Hartsook
 Julie Huxford
 Kristin Shelton
 Michelle Siepker
 Erika Williams

Stewardship Committee

Brad Lewis
 Tom Shelton
 Mike Thomas
 Lora Young
 Dick Kepler
 (financial sec'y)
 Deidre Qual
 (treas – advisor
 to committee)

Evangelism/Fellowship Committee

Robin Doty, chair
 Roger Moore
 Kristin Shelton
 Bruce Hartman

Worship Committee

Mindy DeVries
 Mark Doty
 Teri Klimpel
 Brent Larson
 Donna Millang
 Jean Saveraid
 Oriett Snider
 Holly Twedt
 Jeannie Williams

Library Committee

Doreen Blackmer
 Laura Kepler
 Teri Klimpel
 Sue Larson
 Deb Moore
 Shannon Wilson

Memorials & Gifts Committee

Nancy Fausch
 Jean Saveraid
 Cindi Thomas
 Deidre Qual (advisor)

DELEGATES**SE IA Synod Assembly**

Joyce Carlson
 Deidre Qual

Mission Outreach Committee**(Global Mission/ Social Concerns)**

Teri Klimpel
 Jim Gotta
 Nina Gotta
 Deb Moore
 Chris Nelson
 Kris Polich

Bethany Manor

Marge Sheldahl

Madrid Home

Doreen Blackmer
 Vallery Eisenmann

Riverside Bible Camp

Brent Emerson
 Julie Emerson

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 February 18, 2018

Checking Account \$ 17,772.11

General Fundq - \$ 1,100.97

Designated Funds \$ 18,873.08

Benevolence 495.00

Building Improvement 2,245.00

Technology 3,384.00

Kitchen 5,600.00

Parsonage 1,500.00

Confirmation 2,737.62

Evangelism/Fellowship 447.37

Piano Fund 2,454.09

ROCK 10.00

Principal balance for building improvement loan \$5,772.75
 (as of February 18, 2018)

Church Council 2018

Pastor Eric Klimpel

President: Matt Williams

Vice President: Jeff Van Pelt

Secretary: Ellen Huxford

Treasurer: Deidre Qual

Financial Sec'y: Dick Kepler

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Council: | Nels Dovre |
| David Eisenmann | Cynthia Johnson |
| Laura Kepler | Brad Lewis |
| Jean Saveraid | Kristin Shelton |
| Tim Wilson | Lora Young |

Finance Committee

Deidre Qual, Chair (treasurer)

Mike Thomas

Allan Kopaska

Brad Lewis

Matt Williams (pres)

Dick Kepler (financial sec'y, advisor)

Stewardship chair, advisor

Staff Support/**Mutual Ministry**

Mike Thomas

Brent Emerson

Lori Schonhorst

Mike Larson

Brad Lewis

Lyle Martin

Nominating Committee

Jean Saveraid

Bruce Hartman

Greg Hartsook

Aiden Lewis

Kari Sandquist

McKenzie Shaffer

Palestine Lutheran Church Council Meeting

[not yet approved]

February 11, 2018 Sunday - 8:00 AM

In Attendance: Pastor Eric Klimpel, Matt Williams, Laura Kepler, Lora Young, Cynthia Johnson, Jean Saveraid, Deidre Qual, David Eisenmann, Jeff Van Pelt, Brad Lewis, Nels Dovre, Dick Kepler, and Tim Wilson. A quorum was established.

Devotions – Brad

Read Vision and Mission Statements

Goals and Reflections –

Congregational meeting went well

Vickar Chad Rademacher, student at Luther Seminary- Working on project and our church is guinea pig- he will give report on findings post March

Minutes of the previous meeting

Jeff Van Pelt moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting

Jean Saveraid seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously

Treasurer's Report – Deidre

| February 10 PLC Checking Account | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Benevolence | 390.00 |
| Building Improvement | 2,190.00 |
| Confirmation | 2,737.62 |
| Evangelism/Fellowship Committee | 447.37 |
| General Fund Checking | (7,894.22) |
| Kitchen | 5,600.00 |
| Parsonage | 4,171.09 |
| Piano Fund | 2,454.09 |
| Rock Group | 10.00 |
| Technology Fund | 3,384.00 |
| Total PLC Checking Account | 13,489.95 |

Work shop for treasurers- \$20.00 in April

Nels motions to send Deidre to the Treasurers workshop.

Brad Lewis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Nels Dovre motioned to transfer \$2,671.00 from parsonage fund to the general fund to reconcile utilities for parsonage. Dave Eisenmann seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously

Lora Young motioned to approve treasurer's report .

Cynthia Johnson second. Motion passed unanimously.

Pastor's Report -- Pastor Klimpel

-Refer to pastor's report

New business:

1. Council host Lenten meal on 3/7 from 5:30pm-6:45pm?
 - a. Plan for 40 people
 - b. Tim Wilson- Beef stew and corn bread
2. Transfer Maland estate funds to Thrivent account.
 - a. 66,000 in Palestine account at Edward jones
 - b. Transfer funds to Thrivent account.

Nels Dovre motioned to transfer funds from Edward Jones account to Thrivent account. Jeff Van Pelt Seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously

3. Approval of baptism.

- a. Grayson Johnson

Jean Saveraid Motioned to approve Grayson Johnson Deidre seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously

4. Approval of New Members

- a. David and Phyllis Prichard

- b. Chris and Amanda Richter, Jax and Eden

- c. Bruce and Alisha Cox

Jeff motioned to approve all new members.

Laura Kepler seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

1. Council retreat. Feb 24th - 9am-4pm at Riverside
 - a. Food-Jean and Cynthia
2. Discussion of potential need for 'catch up' event for general fund?
 - a. Look again around Easter.
3. Parsonage update.
 - a. Touch base with Nels for update.
 - b. Leaky window needs fixed.
4. Kitchen committee – Update.
 - a. Haven't moved forward

Next meeting – Retreat February 24th -we'll decide if meeting is needed in March

March Devotions – Pastor

March Treats -

Jacob Huxford Moved to adjourn the meeting. Jeff Van Pelt Seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn with Lord's Prayer.

**Palestine Lutheran Church Annual Meeting
Minutes**

[not yet approved]

10:45 A.M. January 28, 2018

Call to Order - Matt Williams, President

- 10:50 am Matt Williams calls meeting to order.
- A quorum was established.

Opening Devotions - Nels Dovre

Reading of Mission and Vision Statements

Secretary's Minutes, January 22, 2017 - Jacob Huxford, Secretary

- Jean Saveraid moved to approve the minutes from January 22, 2017, McKenzie Shaffer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Congregational Meeting Minutes - Jean Saveraid, acting Secretary

- Nels Dovre moved to approve the minutes from March 12, 2017, Bruce Hartman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Pastor's Report - Eric Klimpel, Pastor

- Pastor Eric gave a brief description of the highlights from 2017, listed in the annual meeting booklet. This past year has been reminiscent of his church camp years and he has been able to connect and meet with people in the committee. Additionally, the congregation has been open to doing things a little differently. Specifically communing from the pews. Pastor Eric was pleased with how the congregation received and embraced the change. Lastly he stated that it has been a privilege to serve Palestine.
- See his report for additional details.

Congregation Council Report - Matt Williams, President

- Matt gave a few highlights from the past year.
- Stated that we continued our growth from last year with the screens, our social media presence, and our growth with the music department (thanks to Mindy and Nels). Thanked the council members and committee members for all the work they have done in the past.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Jeff Van Pelt

- Jeff Van Pelt presented the ballot.

| 2018 Ballot | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Office | Nominee |
| President | Matt Williams (I) |
| Vice President | Jeff Van Pelt (I) |
| Secretary | Ellen Huxford |
| Treasurer | Deidre Qual (I) |
| Financial Secretary | Dick Kepler (I) |
| Council | Nominee |
| Term ending 1-2021 | Tim Wilson |
| Term ending 1-2021 | Nels Dovre (I) |
| Term ending 1-2021 | Kristin Shelton (I) |
| 2018 Ballot | |
| Committees | Nominee |
| Finance (Term ending 1-2019) | Mike Thomas (I) Allan Kopaska (I) Brad Lewis (I) |
| Nominating (4 non-council members) | McKenzie Shaffer Kari Huxford Aiden Lewis Greg Hartsook |
| Nominating (2 council members) | Jean Saveraid Bruce Hartman |
| Delegates 1 yr term | Nominee |
| SE IA Synod Assembly | Joyce Carlson (I) Deidre Qual (I) |
| Bethany Manor | Marge Sheldahl (I) |
| Madrid Home | Doreen Blackmer (I) Vallery Eisenmann (I) |
| Riverside Bible Camp | Brent Emerson (I) Julie Emerson (I) |

Elections:

- Jacob Huxford moved to elect all officers; Matt Williams as President, Jeff Van Pelt as Vice President, Ellen Huxford as Secretary, Deidre Qual as Treasurer, and Dick Kepler as Financial Secretary – Nels Dovre seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Laura Kepler moved to elect all new council members; Tim Wilson, Nels Dovre, and Kristin Shelton – Deidre Qual seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Finance committee – Chris Nelson moved to approve the finance committee, Bruce Hartman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Nominations committee – McKenzie Shaffer, Kari Sandquist, Aiden Lewis, Greg Hartsook, Jean Saveraid and Bruce Hartman. Julie Huxford moved to elect the previously stated names,

Erica Williams seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- Delegates – McKenzie Shaffer moved to elect the delegates, Ellen Huxford seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Committees – Nels Dovre moved to approve the ballot for the operational committees, Julie Huxford seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

- Deidre

Qual, Treasurer

| 2017 PLC Balance on Hand Summary | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Balance on hand January 1, 2017 | \$ 12,949.96 |
| 2016 Income | + 230,520.80 |
| 2016 Expense | - 229,608.80 |
| Balance on hand December 31, 2017 | \$ 13,571.68 |

| December 31, 2017 - PLC Checking Account Breakdown | |
|--|--------------|
| General Fund | \$ -4,106.07 |
| Benevolence | 60.00 |
| Building Improvement | 2,050.00 |
| Confirmation | 2,403.62 |
| Evangelism/Fellowship | 447.37 |
| Kitchen | 5,550.00 |
| Parsonage | 4,188.67 |
| Piano Fund | 2,454.09 |
| ROCK Group | 0.00 |
| Technology Fund | 3,384.00 |
| PLC Checking – Other | 140.00 |
| Principal balance for Building Improvement Load | 5,772.75 |

- The negative balance in the general fund is due to the cancelation of church in December 2017.
- Laura Kepler moved to approve, Cynthia Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously

Audit Committee Report

Holly Larson

- Holly Larson stated that the Audit Committee Report reviewed the Treasurer's

Old Business:

Report and everything was posted in the register.

Budget

- Brad Lewis

- Brad Lewis, who represented the Financial Committee, discussed the budget. Stated that if you look at the history we are right where we have been in the past. Stated that our short comings in the general fund are from the missed Sundays in 2016 and 2017. The overall budget stayed the same with the only acceptance being the 3% raise for church staff.
- Question arose regarding the Parsonage. Nels stated that he and his wife are interested in renting out the parsonage pending the status of their current lease. Check the upcoming monthly minutes for updates.
- Roger Moore moved to approve the 2017 Budget, Julie Emerson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

- Kitchen renovation committee update:
 - o The committee thinks that the best option for the kitchen is to do a complete overhaul of the kitchen. He also stated that the stoves will need to be replaced.
 - o The committee is on the same path, they are working on aligning with a kitchen design team to help complete the kitchen renovation project.
 - o Once they get a design company they will host meetings and town halls to get the word out about the design options and narrow down what the congregation wants.
- Matt Williams stated that while working with the Maland Estate we came across some bylaws that need updated. These will be updated throughout the year.

Closing Prayer

- Matt Williams, President

Jacob Huxford moved to adjourn the meeting. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Carl and Kelsey Grulke will be our guests on Sunday, March 3. Please plan to attend to learn more about their work as missionaries thru Lutheran Bible Translators.

Carl and Kelsey Grulke

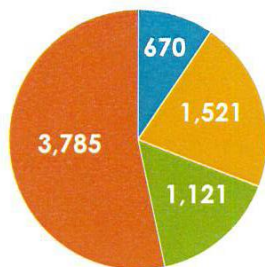
Missionaries to Botswana



Carl and Kelsey Grulke share a love for the Word of God and for helping it come alive in the hearts of those who hear the Good News.

Carl and Kelsey have known each other since childhood, were married in 2007, and have been blessed with five wonderful children: MaryJane,

Audrey, Judah, Gideon and Isaac. They are thrilled to be working together as a family in ministry and have a passion for language and for sharing the incredible story of what God has done for His people all around the world.



There is a huge need for Bible translation in the world today. Of 7,097 languages spoken in the world today, **only 670** of them have the complete Bible translated. Some languages have some Scripture available, but there are 3,785 languages that have no Scripture whatsoever, which represents **180 million people who cannot read God's Word in their own language.**

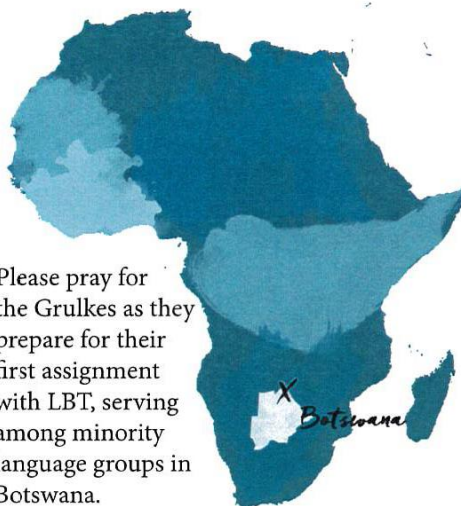
For more information on supporting the Grulkes' ministry through prayer or a financial gift, visit thegrulkes.org or find them on Facebook at **The Grulkes' LBT Adventures.**

Your tax-deductible gifts can be made online at lbt.org or mailed to Lutheran Bible Translators, P.O. Box 789, Concordia, MO 64020, with 'Grulke Ministry' in the memo line.

lutheran bible translators
GOD'S WORD
for every language



Please pray for the Grulkes as they prepare for their first assignment with LBT, serving among minority language groups in Botswana.



Volunteer schedule

March 2018

Greeters

- 3/4 Lynae & Josh Kruse
Diane & Virgil Larson
- 3/11 Sue & Leonard Larson
Holly & Wade Twedt
- 3/18 Chris & Amanda Richter
Deidre Qual
- 3/25 Ken & Louise Larson
Cynthia Johnson

Ushers

will be contacted

Sunday Fellowship

Families who greet also serve beverages for fellowship.

Communion Assistants

- 3/4 – David & Vallery Eisenmann
- 3/18 – Bill & Sandy Harleen
- 3/29 – Doreen Blackmer

Offering Counters

Bob Snider, Holly Twedt

Altar Guild

Pat Martin, Donna Millang

Snow Removal

▪ Sidewalks

Sign up in Fellowship Hall

▪ Drives & Parking Lots

Andrew Larson

Deliver Food Pantry donations for March

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

Sponsored by Palestine Mission Outreach



March 11, 2018



March Birthdays

- 1 - Kaedence DeVries
Jeannie Williams
- 4 - Benjamin Ewing
- 5 - Samantha Harmon
Dave Mueller
- 7 - Mark Doty
Andrew Larson
Aiden Lewis
- 10 - Brad Lewis
- 11 - Joyce Carlson
Marvin Edwards
Lucas Hartsook
Sidney Jamison
- 13 - Madeline Sheldahl
- 17 - Rebecca Snider
- 18 - Tylan Siepker
- 19 - Addy Siepker
- 20 - Brittany Young
- 21 - Blake Edwards
Patti Rowedder
- 22 - Kevin Kopaska
Chris Nelson
- 23 - Doreen Blackmer
- 24 - Nicolas Schonhorst
- 25 - Jessica Blackmer
- 28 - Erika Williams
- 29 - Brent Emerson
Helen Kepler
Rick Sheldahl
Mae Wilson

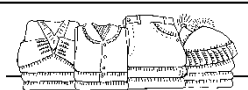


MARCH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

19 – Marvin & Lori Edwards

EASTER LILIES/SPRING PLANTS FOR EASTER WORSHIP

Blumsters will be offering Easter lilies/Spring Plants at a cost of \$15 (tax included). The plants will be delivered to church for Easter Sunday worship, April 1st. You may sign up for plants with Julie Huxford or Tracy Sheldahl in Fellowship Hall during Sundays in March. Please let them know (at the time you order) if you are placing the plant in memory of or in honor of someone.



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.

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 February: Anita Brendeland; Joan Carson; Elinor (Anderson) Christiansen; Logan DeHaven; Kim Fears; Jane Gordon; Sandy Harleen; Bruce Hartman; Kai Johnson; 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 affirmation of faith on February 11, 2018, **Alisha & Bruce Cox**. We give thanks for these people whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

We extend our prayers and sincerest Christian sympathy... to family and friends of **Gregory Nordstrom** (father of Katie Madson)

...to family and friends of **Ruth Hennick**

...to family and friends of **Irma Elliott**

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

3 special giving opportunities are available during Lent. Additional information about each included in this newsletter and/or in Journey into Lent & Holy Week 2018 Worship & Ministry Guide (available in Fellowship Hall or on our website under the calendar/forms button,)

1. **Soap for Hope** – gather soaps for personal hygiene, cleaning laundry & linens, tooth brushes and toothpaste. They will be through our local food pantries and homeless ministries in Des Moines. We will have an offering brought forward March 18th of the items collected.
2. **The Water and the Witness Bucket Challenge** for ELCA World Hunger Projects. Offerings collected at Mid-week meals & worship will go to this cause.
3. **JOPPA** –special Easter offering. Joppa helps homeless people survive, find housing, and rebuild their lives! (based in Des Moines, Iowa)



BAKE SALE

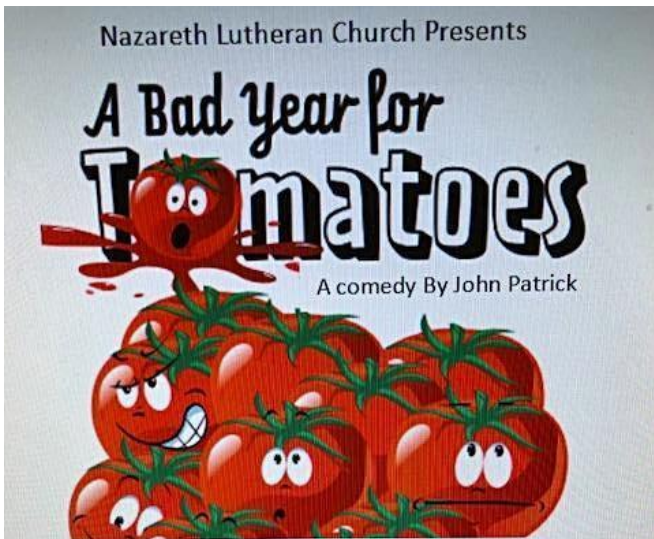
5th, the **Friends of Madrid Home** will hold the **Annual Spring Bake Sale** at the Madrid Home. We are in need of sell, as well as shoppers. Items to sell to the Madrid Home Saturday morning by noon or to bring to church that Sunday.

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



National Alliance on Mental Illness

Register for NAMI BASICS, a free six-week group education program for parents and family caregivers of children and teens who are experiencing symptoms of a mental illness or who have already been diagnosed. The course is taught by a trained team with lived experience and provides critical strategies for taking care of your child and learning the ropes of recovery. Class begins: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 to April 25, 2018 Where: NAMICI Center – 416 Douglas Ave, Ste 205 Time: 6:30pm – 8:30pm Contact NAMICI more information or to register for the class. namiofci@gmail.com or 515-292-9400



On Saturday March 3 we will serve dinner at 6:00 PM and then the play will be at 7:30 PM with an intermission. We are serving smoked pork loins, cheesy potatoes and corn. Food is courtesy of Smoke House 72. The cost will be \$20.00 per ticket or a table for 8 people for \$125.00. You need to call and make a reservation for the dinner. Please call 515-383-4328 if Eileen is at church she will be able to take your payment over the phone, or she will call you back and take the payment then.

Tickets available by calling 515-383-4328 or at the door. The Sunday matinee will be at 2:00 PM at the cost of \$10.00 per ticket.

You could also see the dress rehearsal on Friday evening at 7:30 PM. There will be a free will offering that night.

This is a fundraiser for the bell tower restoration



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

Connecting faith & finances for good.®

REMINDER—
MARCH 31
DEADLINE TO

DIRECT CHOICE DOLLARS®

Since 2010, over \$370 million has been distributed to thousands of churches, schools, and other nonprofits just like ours through Thrivent Choice®. Through this program, eligible members can recommend where Thrivent donates millions of charitable outreach dollars each year.

Based on member recommendations, Palestine Lutheran Church has received \$7,908 in charitable outreach funding since the program began in 2010. We received \$707 in charitable outreach funding in 2017.

Don't forget to direct Choice Dollars®

Grant funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice® program can help support organizations you care about. Don't let Choice Dollars expire.

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available have until **March 31, 2018**, to direct any remaining 2017 Choice Dollars. Help support Palestine Lutheran Church. Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

If you have any questions, contact Cynthia Johnson – Palestine's Thrivent Financial congregational advocate.

Report and thank you for response to Hurricane clean-up and recovery efforts from Thrivent Financial - Thank you to those who made a personal donation and/or directed Choice Dollars® to help support the Hurricane clean-up and recovery efforts. Your response is an incredible demonstration of your generosity and commitment to help.

- 10,766 Thrivent members, family and friends gave personal donations totaling \$2,979,035. Unlocking \$2,979,035 in Thrivent matching funds.
- 8,200 Thrivent members directed Choice Dollars totaling more than \$1,133,600 in grant funds.

And, here's even more proof of your generosity. Thrivent members have led nearly 1,200 Thrivent Action Teams to assist with this important cause, resulting in \$1.64 million raised and 136,000 in volunteer hours.

Your actions brought help and hope to thousands of people affected by natural disasters. Thank you for giving of yourself and your financial resources at a time when they were needed most.



March is National Professional Social Work Month

March is National Professional Social Work Month, a time to recognize social workers and thank them for all they do. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we're grateful for our many social workers who have dedicated their lives to serving their communities!

Maybe you've never had a social worker involved in your life. Yet, whether you realize it or not, you've had the benefit of their behind-the-scenes work in your community. Social workers help people help themselves in overcoming life's most difficult circumstances or managing challenges of everyday living: poverty, abuse, mental illness, depression, addiction, disability, and many other situations.

Iowa wouldn't be the same without the patience, guidance, and empowerment that social workers provide. Happy National Professional Social Work Month!

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.

A Home Full of Love

Many of Cheryl's favorite memories involve raising her two children, watching them thrive, and counting the shoes in the doorway each night to see how many of her children's friends she would be making dinner for.

As her children grew up, Cheryl knew there were more Iowa youth who needed a loving family and support system like hers. That's when her family began adopting.

"We were a welcoming family, and we really didn't want that journey to stop," Cheryl says.

Since starting her journey as an adoptive parent 20 years ago, Cheryl has welcomed 19 adopted children into her family and her children range from ages 9 to 35. They come from different backgrounds and cultures, and Cheryl says it's been enriching to celebrate those differences in her home.

Iowa has a great need for more foster and adoptive families like Cheryl's. She says it has been a learning experience to raise so many different children but together, her family has found lots of love and laughter along the way.

"People will say to us, 'God bless you that you've done this.' We don't see it that way," Cheryl says. "We see it as how blessed and thankful we are to have a family that's so big."

PALESTINE WOMEN OF ELCA

PALESTINE WOMEN OF ELCA Bible study March 5, 2 p.m.

In the March Gather magazine we continue the Winter 2018 Bible study: Multiple meanings: Learning from other interpretations by Mark Allan Powell

January/February:

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

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

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

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

Session three: The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37)

This month's study takes the theme of "multiple meanings" to a new level. We have previously considered how individuals understand Bible stories differently. Now we have an example of how nations or societies do this as well. Session three explores how one of the best known stories in the Bible (the parable of the Good Samaritan) has impacted culture, cultures different from our own. The study's author hopes that our studies have prepared us to realize the Bible is "a living word." It often means different things to different people not because people misunderstand it (though of course that does happen) but because God speaks through Scripture to people in ways that they need to hear. My guess is that Americans have heard what God wanted to say to us, and the Tanzanians have heard what God wanted to say to them. But since we are all part of one global body of Christ, it is nice to compare notes.

The March 2018 edition focuses on the fact that "living word" of scripture speaks to us all in unique, profound and meaningful ways – and that is a good thing. The cover of the March *Gather* allows us to visually reflect on our study. "As we examine how people around the world encounter Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan, the overlapping colors, patterns and textures of artist Jing Jing Tsong's illustration help us to consider what it means to have and be neighbors."

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – Cluster 1 Spring Gathering – April 28 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Ogden – Program on Prayer

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

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



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, 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 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.

Black & White Ball - Riverside Gala

April 7, 2018

Location: Gateway Hotel & Conference Center - Ames, Iowa

2100 Green Hills Drive, Ames, IA 50014

Evening Schedule

5:00 pm - Doors Open (Please do not arrive before 5:00 pm.

Arriving between 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm is ideal.)

5:30 pm - Hors d'oeuvres and Viewing of Auction Items

7:00 pm - Dinner

Live Auction and Dancing to follow

Dress

This is a black and white ball. Everyone is encouraged to only wear black and white for this 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 eight people for \$800.

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 6 at 5:00 pm. Just call the office and ask to speak with Dave McDermott to place a bid.

Auction Items

There are always a plethora of fantastic auction items for both the live and silent auction at the Riverside Gala. This year will be no exception! Items are still being finalized, but be sure to check back as we get closer to the date of the Gala for an updated list.