

The Palestine Press

September 2017

Volume XXXI Number 9
Monthly newsletter of
Palestine Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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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."

Trusting God to "Keep the Main thing the Main thing" this Year -----With Pastor Eric

Matthew 14:22-33 – Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee], while he dismissed the crowds.²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear.²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."²⁸ Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

I love this story from Matthew. I believe that the "walking on the water" story is an excellent story to start the school year on this September. I was on vacation when this story surfaced in August (8/13) in the lectionary so I missed preaching on it and I want to share some insight and encouragements with you. The story appears only in Matthew's gospel account and I venture that we have two stories combined here – the first is Mark's version of calming the storm (Mark 4:35-41) and the second is Matthew's account of Jesus walking on water with Peter stepping out.

Jesus does some pretty amazing things in this story which defy probability and natural law. He walks on the surface of liquid water, and he seems to calm the storm (*in reference to Mark*). Now keep in mind that in that same day, Jesus provided food to thousands of people with a few loaves and fish. Given these amazing circumstances it would seem like a "no brainer" that Jesus is God's Son. However, these disciples are still afraid, thinking he is a ghost, and Peter seems to doubt what he so impulsively believes. Everyone seems to make the

connection when Jesus actually reaches out for Peter and pulls him into the boat. "Lord, save me!" and immediately Jesus saves him.

We know what stormy weather looks like and feels like...dark, windy, chaotic, confusing, frustrating, fearful...whether in marriage, ministry, workplace, or neighborhood. I can get caught up in the immediate needs and concerns of the moment which can surely make it more difficult. Jesus commands us to "**keep the main thing the main thing**" and stay focused on him and like him. Trusting in Jesus means that you see things from a different perspective not only from within the chaos but slightly above it. You realize that Jesus saves and would not call you into peril but challenges you, teaches you and even leads you through whatever storm you (we) find ourselves sinking into. In Jesus, we might come to believe that even the storm has a purpose to clear out and then renew the landscapes of our lives, relationships and spirits. May this new school year find peaceful renewal in times of stormy seas for all of us and may the Holy Spirit keep us focusing and following **Jesus "the main thing!"** Amen.

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

September 3 13th Sunday after Pentecost –

Primary Text: Matthew 16:21-28

Tips of Discipleship: *Lose Your Life*

Sept 10 14th Sunday after Pentecost –

Primary Text: Matthew 18: 15-20

The Challenge of Discipleship: *Conflict*

Sept 17 15th Sunday after Pentecost –

Primary Text: Matthew 18:21-35

The Challenge of Discipleship: *Forgiveness*

Sept 24 16th Sunday after Pentecost –

Primary Text: Matthew 20:1-16

The Challenge of Discipleship: *Grace*

October 1 17th Sunday after Pentecost –

Primary Text: Matt 21:23-32

The Challenge of Discipleship: *Responsible Living*

Children's Church begins Sunday, September 17



We will be transitioning to the Children's Church format for Sunday School for the entire year term

this year. Kids will go to class immediately following the Children's Message and return during the Sharing of the Peace. Kids will go to the choir loft following the service to let their joyful voices be heard.

Important Sunday School dates:

September 10 – Rally Day – watch for announcements about how your family can participate in exciting service projects for "God's Work, Our Hands"

September 17 – 1st day of Sunday School/Children's Church



2017 Tri-Synodical Conference

"The Reformation: What's at Stake? Then and Now"

Speakers:

- Bishop Guy Erwin
- Anna Madson
- Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

The 2017 Tri-Synodical Conference focusing on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation will be held September 24-September 26. Rostered leaders from Northeastern, Southeastern, and Western Iowa Synods will be meeting at the West Des Moines Sheraton & Faith Lutheran Church.

Palestine Lutheran Church
Worship & Study Opportunities-
September 2017



Call in number to listen to worship
 services: 597-3994

[Please be sure to put your phone on
 mute or sounds from your home will be carried to all
 phones that have dialed in for the service.]

Saturday, September 2

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

Sunday, September 3 13th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Worship: Holy Communion

Tuesday, September 5

6 p.m. Listening Event Re: Synod Restructuring Proposal,
 Memorial Lutheran, Nevada

Wednesday, September 6

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

6:00 p.m. Confirmation Kick-off @ Nord Kalsem Park

Saturday, September 9

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

4:00 p.m. Wedding for Hannah Green & Jake Saltzman

Sunday, September 10 14th Sunday after Pentecost

God's Work Our Hands Sunday

Wear Palestine or Thrivent shirt

9:30 a.m. Worship

11 a.m. Teams go to Service Sites

Monday, September 11

6:00 p.m. Palestine Women of ELCA Salad supper & Bible
 study

Wednesday, September 13

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

6:30 p.m. Confirmation class begins

Saturday, September 16

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

Sunday, September 17 15th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Tuesday, September 19

6 p.m. Listening Event Re: Synod Restructuring Proposal,
 Faith Lutheran, Clive

Wednesday, September 20

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

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

Saturday, September 23

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

Sunday, September 24 16th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Sunday, September 24 thru Tuesday, September 26

Pastor @ SE IA Fall Theological Conference in West Des
 Moines

Wednesday, September 27

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

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

Saturday, September 30

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

This fall, we are celebrating the 9th anniversary of
 Milestone Ministry at Palestine. Following is a
 combination of information from archives and also
 current opportunities to help in this ministry.

Building Faith with Milestone Ministry

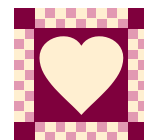
Milestone Ministry is our vision to recognize and
 celebrate the faith milestones of our members,
 beginning at baptism. The baptismal milestone is the
 first opportunity we have to connect and begin building
 the faith relationship with our members. Other
 milestones we recognize include: start of school
 (backpack blessing), 3rd grade Bibles, 1st Communion,
 Confirmation and High School Graduation.



Our gift to baptized members
 includes a wooden faith chest, a
 quilt, and other baptism
 keepsakes. These are items that
 are built by the members of our
 church, providing more opportunities for us to share in
 stewardship and fellowship. The faith chest is a gift that
 can be used to store the other mementos of a child's
 journey through their Christian Education. It also serves
 as a reminder of the solidity of the bond we have built
 with God and his son, Jesus Christ.

So, how can you be a "builder" of God's Word?

- Watch and listen for opportunities for faith chest
 building when our current supply is used.
- There are kits available to make
 quilts to welcome the youngest
 members of our faith community.
 Kits are available in the
 Choir/Confirmation room off the
 North Hall. The classroom closest to the offices.



If you have questions, please contact Katie Madson.

Prepare for **"God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday**
(September 10th, 2017)



"God's work.
Our hands."
Sunday is an
opportunity to
celebrate who
we are as the

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - one church,
freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. The 2017
dedicated day of service is Sunday, Sept. 10. Mark your
calendars today! You are encouraged to wear a Palestine
shirt or a Thrivent shirt that day and appropriate work
clothes. The calendar for the day is –

9:30 am Worship

10:30 am Fellowship & form service teams

11 am Teams go to Service locations. Plan to work
approximately for 1 to 1 ½ hours. Bag lunches will
be available to take with you. We will not be
gathering back at church but you are welcome to
carpool to go to the work sites. Please take
pictures and send them to
ericklimpel@gmail.com so they can be shared.

We are arranging exciting service opportunities that your
entire family can participate in including – Palestine
Piecemakers quilt making at church; Gather at the
Garden by the parsonage; Volunteer @ Blackmer Family
Farm – Gardening for Good; Ballard Community Clothes
Pantry help to convert from summer to fall.



Service activities offer an
opportunity for us to explore
one of our most basic
convictions as Lutherans: that
all of life in Jesus Christ -
every act of service, in every
daily calling, in every corner of
life - flows freely from a living,
daring confidence in God's
grace.

You work every day to make your community a better
place. Let us continue doing this work together in 2017!



Be sure to follow us on facebook to keep
up to date on what is happening at
church.



*Iowa Gardening for Good is a project created by the
Blackmer family that focuses on involving people in
growing things of value for a good cause.*



Currently, our largest project is with
the Food Bank of Iowa (located in Des
Moines) and involves producing
vegetables that are distributed
through local food pantries and other
partner agencies. We use our land and
donate use of our equipment to grow

vegetables and Tracy offers his gardening knowledge to
supervise the project. The primary labor source we use is
volunteers that are scheduled primarily through the Food
Bank of Iowa (which employs a volunteer coordinator).
Throughout the growing season, dates are available for
volunteers to come help plant, tie up plants or pick
produce. We are deeply appreciative for all the help we
have received in making our ideas and projects a reality and
for friendships that have been made through Iowa
Gardening for Good projects.

If you are going to the Blackmer farm for your service event
check their website for directions to their place and
suggestions of how to dress, what to bring, etc. The
website is iowagardeningforgood.com



The Ballard Clothes
Pantry is located
behind Ballard Creek
Retirement Center
on N. Highway 69.

This service is free to anyone in the Ballard community. The
clothes pantry is open on Wednesdays from 4 to 6 pm,
Saturday from 10am to noon and on Sundays 1 to 3 pm.
You can also make an appointment by calling Jeriann
McLaughlin at 515.597.2971 ext 2190 or evenings at 515-
291-3543. You can also email Ms. McLaughlin
at jmclaughlin@ballard.k12.ia.us.

The Ballard Clothes Pantry does accept donations and items
donated must be able to be used during the active season.

Church Office: 515/597-2620
Fax number: 515/597-2621
Website: www.plchuxley.com
Secretary's Office: 515/597-2624
Church e-mail is: PLC@huxcomm.net
Pastor Eric Klimpel's email: ericklimpel@gmail.com
cell: 936/444-3895

Treasurer's Report

Balance on hand August 20, 2017
Checking Account \$ 16,006.77
General Fund – S 159.50
Designated Funds \$ 16,165.57
 Benevolence 1,025.00
 Building Improvement 2,000.00
 Technology 3,464.86
 Kitchen 2,450.00
 Parsonage 5,575.70
 Confirmation 1,286.24
 Evangelism/Fellowship 364.47
Principal balance building improvement loan \$8,352.75

You may donate to exterior repair projects thru the Building Improvement Fund. As a reminder...you can make contributions online or on any mobile device to this fund along with any other offerings. Just go to our website at www.plchuxley.com and click on the "Online Giving" link on the homepage and you can set up an account to quickly and easily give anytime and anywhere!

Next Council Meeting – Sunday, September 10 at 8 a.m.

Church Council 2017

Pastor Eric Klimpel	
President: Matt Williams	Vice President: Jeff Van Pelt
Secretary: Jacob Huxford	Treasurer: Deidre Qual
Financial Sec'y: Dick Kepler	
Council: Nels Dovre	David Eisenmann
Bruce Hartman	Cynthia Johnson
Laura Kepler	Brad Lewis
Jean Saveraid	Kristin Shelton
Lora Young	

Offering Counters Needed

I am looking for a few more offering counters. You would be on a team with one or two other people and count three months of the year: (January-May-September), (February-June-October), (March-July-November), or (April-August-December). Generally it takes about a 30-45 minutes after the service.

If you are interested or have questions, please contact me at williams@huxcomm.net or leave a message at [515-979-5524](tel:515-979-5524).

Thanks, Jeannie Williams

Palestine Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes July 9, 2017-- Sunday – 7:15 p.m.

Meeting Called To Order

President Matt Williams called the meeting to order on Sunday July 9th, 2017 @ 7:15 PM

In Attendance

Matt Williams, Bruce Hartman, Lora Young, Laura Kepler, Dick Kepler, Brad Lewis, Pastor Klimpel, Deidre Qual, Cynthia Johnson and Jean Saveraid
A quorum was established.

Treasurer's Report

Presented by Deidre Qual. Deidre presented a written report.

A motion was made from the floor to approve the treasury report as presented by Jean Saveraid with a second by Lora Young.

Motion approved unanimously.

Matt reported that we borrowed \$10,000 on the Credit Line to pay the Hedrick Invoice for the repairs on the church. It was stated that whenever the Building Improvement Account gets over \$2000 in it, that the difference will be paid down on the Credit Line. The Credit Line is an interest only loan.

New Business

-- Motion to approve the baptism of Josephine Danielle Engler by Laura Kepler, Seconded by Bruce Hartman.

Motion approved unanimously

-- Motion to approve the wedding of Shelbi Weeks and Eric Williams on July 29th, 2017 by Jean Saveraid, Seconded by Bruce Hartman

Motion approved unanimously

-- Discussed that the Intern from Nevada Memorial Lutheran has moved out. Need to start the discussion of what to do with the parsonage.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes for the June meeting were shared with Council members via e-mail. No Changes were made and a motion was made by Bruce Hartman to approve minutes, Lori Young second the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Next Meeting

August 6th @ 8:00 AM.

Meeting Adjourned

A standing motion from the floor was made to adjourn the meeting by Jake Huxford with a second by Bruce Hartman.

Motion carries unanimously.

Next Devotions -> Kristin Shelton

The council recited the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Minutes - Palestine Lutheran Church Council Meeting

[not yet approved]

August 6, 2017- Sunday - 8:00 AM

In Attendance: Pastor Eric Klimpel, Matt Williams, Dick Kepler, Laura Kepler, Jacob Huxford, Lora Young, Cynthia Johnson, Jean Saveraid, Brad Lewis, Bruce Hartman, David Eisenmann, Deidre Qual and Kristin Shelton. A quorum was established.

Devotions – Kristin Shelton

Read Vision and Mission Statements

Goals and Reflections –

- Nels' wedding was a highlight of the summer.
- Cynthia stated that the Riverside quilt auction raised approximately \$38,000 for the camp and the quilts that were brought by the Palestine quilters raised \$1,200!!

Minutes of the previous meeting

- Jean Saveraid moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, Kristin Shelton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Deidre

PLC Checking Account	
Benevolence	\$ 695.00
Building Improvement	2,662.25
Confirmation	1,286.24
Evangelism/Fellowship Committee	364.47
General Fund Checking	-5,052.36
Kitchen	2,425.00
Parsonage	5,614.73
Technology Fund	3,464.86
Total PLC Checking Account	\$ 11,460.19

Deidre Qual mentioned we should present a report from EasyTithe of our electronic giving each month.

Lora Young moved to approve the Treasurer's report, Bruce Hartman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Pastor's Report -- Pastor Klimpel

- See his report.

New business:

1. Prairiefest.
 - We will be hosting Pie Night on Saturday night, August 26, 2017. Feel free to let Kristin Shelton know if you plan on donating pies!

2. Reagan Doty plans to go to Seattle to join Serve Seattle for a year – Reagan plans to raise money for her yearlong endeavor via a Go Fund Me page and have cinnamon rolls and coffee on August 20, 2017.
 - Kristin Shelton moved to match the proceeds from the Cinnamon Roll and Coffee Fundraiser, up to \$500.00. Jacob Huxford seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously. The plan is to match up to \$500.00 of the money that Reagan raises on August 20, 2017.

Unfinished Business:

1. Mutual Ministry Committee: Sandy Harleen has agreed to fill position vacated by Mike Larson.
2. Kitchen committee – Update.
 - Working on attaining goals. Plan on changing priorities to how the congregation cooks and plan the kitchen that way. More investigation is needed to ensure that we as a congregation are better stewards with the money we have access to.
3. Parsonage – Update.
 - The occupants have moved out. An official walk through of the house will be conducted later this week.
 - Currently we don't have any plans for the future of the parsonage.

Jacob Huxford moved to adjourn the meeting. Jean Saveraid seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn with Lord's Prayer

Next meeting – September 10, 2017 at 8:00am

Sept Devotions – Jeff Van Pelt

Sept Treats – Lora Young



Within both the Office of the Bishop and the leadership of the synod council, ongoing conversations have focused on “best practices” related to fostering a deeper sense of connection and partnership throughout

the synod. Looking ahead to 2020 as a period of transition (election of a bishop), the time seems right to explore how best to position the synod for a continually changing landscape.

The Synod Council convened a task force to consider aspects of the “Synod Structural Revision” proposal in September 2016. A draft proposal was reviewed by the council in December 2016. In February 2017, the council voted to forward the *Southeastern Iowa Synod – Structural Revision* to the 2017 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly for consideration. After a year of conversation and gathering feedback, the Synod Council will then forward a proposal onto the 2018 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly for action.

Consider attending one of the upcoming listening events:

[September 5: Memorial Lutheran Church, Nevada – 6 p.m.](#)

[September 7: Bethany Lutheran Church, West Branch–6 pm](#)

[September 14: Zion Lutheran Church, Davenport – 6 p.m.](#)

[September 19: Faith Lutheran Church, Clive – 6 p.m.](#)

Restructuring Resources – available online

- [Structural Revision - Introduction](#) by Bishop Michael Burk
- [Structure Revision - Electing Synod Council](#) by Heather Miller, Synod Vice President
- [Synod Ministry Cohorts](#) by Randy Willman Synod Secretary
- **(New!)** [Structural Revision-Synod Deans](#) Synod Deans-by Bishop Michael Burk
- [Proposed Synod Restructural Vision Document](#) presented at the 2017 Synod Assembly
- [Preliminary Proposal for Synod Cohorts Restructure FAQ](#) – a glossary of terms and frequently asked questions



2017

Volunteer schedule

Greeters

- 9/3 Nancy Fausch
Laura Kepler
- 9/10 Brent & Julie Emerson
Laura Kepler
- 9/17 Deb & Allan Kopaska
Cynthia Johnson
- 9/24 Rich & Chris Nelson
Dax & Haylie Clark

Acolytes –

- 9/3 ..
- 9/10
- 9/17
- 9/24

Lectors -

- 9/3
- 9/10
- 9/17
- 9/24

Ushers

- Brent Larson, captain Brad Lewis
- Mike Larson Justin Sample
- Zach Larson

Sunday Fellowship

Families who greet also serve beverages for fellowship.

Assistants

- 9/3Leonard & Sue Larson
- 9/17 ...Bill & Sandy Harleen

Offering Counters

Doreen Blackmer, Jeannie Williams, Joyce Carlson

Altar Guild

Vivian & Del Lundgren, Teri Klimpel

Mowing (church & parsonage grounds)

August 28-Sept 3

Sept 4-10

Sept 11-17

Sept 18-24

Sept 25-Oct 1

Deliver Food Pantry donations for Sept.

"September is **Breakfast of Champions!** month at the food pantry - please donate breakfast items, such as cereal, oatmeal, jelly, peanut butter, juice."

Sponsored by Palestine Mission Outreach Committee

September



Celebrating Their ANNIVERSARY

- 1 - VanSoelen, Kirsten
- 3 - Rasmussen, Teresa
- 4 - Rahner Zoey
- 5 - Brendeland, Scott
- Sheldahl, Marge (75th)
- 7 - Johnson, Warren (90th)
- 8 - Doty, Robin
- 9 - Wee, Arlene
- Wuebker, Adam
- 15 - Kepler, Dick
- 17 - Sample, Jodie
- 18 - Echtenkamp Bev (85th)
- Atkinson, Jodie
- 19 - Baldwin, DeAnn
- Lisowski, Donna
- Rasmussen, Andrew
- Twedt, Ellie
- 20 - Davis, Bob
- Edwards, Jeremy
- Wuebker, Molly
- 21 - Atkinson, Abrielle
- 22 - Clark, Dax
- Gallagher, Brynn
- 25 - Bowers, Charles
- 27 - Snider, Oriett
- 28 - Clark, Rex
- Shelton, Max
- 30 - Huxford, Jacob

SEPTEMBER

- 1 - Steve & Jodie Atkinson
- 4 - David & Margret Anderson
- Dick & Helen Kepler
- 7 - Lucas & Courtney Williams
- 9 - Chelsea & Kyle Limoges
- 10 - Allen & Ruth Evans
- 11 - Jeremy & Danielle Edwards
- DeAnn & Stuart Baldwin
- Bruce & Angela Hartman
- 14 - Jon & Sarah Jensen (15th)
- 15 - James & Lora Young
- 18 - Greg & Christa Hartsook
- 20 - Richard & Chris Nelson
- Tony & Jamie Ness (20th)
- 21 - Tim & Julie Huxford
- 28 - Timothy & Holly Wise
- 29 - Adam & Amber McKenna (5th)
- Kyle & Tracy Rhoads
- Dan & Kirsten VanSoelen

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

Remember in Prayer

The following were included in the Prayers of the Church during August: Anita Brendeland; Joan Carson; Mark Doty; Kim Fears; Alvina Larson; Merlin Lyon; Pat Murphy; Deidre Qual; Christian Russell; Lorraine Sorensen; Arlene Wee; Randy Young.

- Those impacted by flooding, earthquakes, tsunamis, storms, tornadoes, drought & wild fires.
- Those impacted by terrorist attacks around the world & also here at home.
- Syrian refugees.

We extend our prayers and congratulations to...

...**Mary Kate & Christian Russell** as they welcome their newborn daughter, **Ila Joy Russell** (born July 16). She is welcomed to the family by proud grandparents Jim and Nina Gotta.

...**Casondra & Darren DeHaven, Hayden & Logan** as they welcome their newborn daughter & sister, **Gracelyn DeHaven**.

O Lord our God, we thank you for being with these families as they experience the joy of watching new life begin.

We extend our prayers and sincerest Christian sympathy...

...to family and friends of **Gerald Carlson** (Joyce Carlson's father).

...to family & friends of **Leona (Ness) Mathews** (aunt of Paul Ness, Donna Lisowski, & Cheryl Rasmussen) May the risen Lord give his strength and comfort to their families in their time of loss.

Communication received August 7, 2017 –



As part of the Statewide Lutheran Disaster Response Team, LSI and the three Iowa Synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

have joined forces to address the urgent needs of Iowa and Montana communities suffering from flooding and drought.

Recent excessive rainfall has caused severe flooding in parts of Northeast Iowa. Homes in Bremer County, for instance, have been damaged and roads have been closed due to high waters. In Montana, farmers are suffering from the effects of a severe drought. The drought conditions have also created wildfires and the combination of drought and wildfires has jeopardized thousands of livestock now at risk of starvation.

The Statewide Lutheran Disaster Response Team needs your help to provide support to Iowa families affected by recent flooding, as well as coordinating the donation and transportation of hay to livestock endangered by the Montana drought and wildfires. More specific information about the hay donation will be provided in a future communication.

Financial donations are critical at this time. Please do not donate materials, as needs for specific items have not yet been assessed. For the next 30 days, your gift will help us lift up our neighbors impacted by these disasters. Donations can be made online at LSIowa.org.

Donations are also being accepted by mail. Please designate either "2017 Iowa Flooding" or "2017 Montana Hay Lift" in the memo line of the check, and mail it to: Lutheran Services in Iowa, Attn: 2017 Disaster Relief, 106 16th Street SW, Waverly, IA 50677

Thank you for supporting our neighbors in need.



Watching from afar, the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey is heart-wrenching. The breadth of the damage and the likely time needed to recover is hard to comprehend. Some of the worst flooding still lies ahead.

From news reports to posts on social media, you have likely seen the encouragement to join the efforts to help by donating to various responding organizations like the American Red Cross, as well as to Texas-based agencies.

Please take these requests seriously, paying particular attention to the ways our own church “shows up” in the face of disasters. Your contributions to Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR), a ministry of the ELCA, have a lasting impact. Partnering directly with the ELCA synods impacted by the storm, (particularly the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod), and with a web of other responding groups, LDR seeks to assist as many people as possible, from across the societal spectrum. At a time when so many influences seek to divide people, this is an opportunity to work together for the good of neighbors in need.

You may contribute directly to ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response online or you may send your gifts by mail to the Southeastern Iowa Synod marked “Hurricane Harvey Relief” and we will assure that they are delivered directly to relief efforts.

In these days of widespread need, please pray for the victims of this storm and its aftermath, for the emergency responders, and for all who participate in relief efforts. Let our actions reflect God’s own love for the world, a witness to the good news of Jesus Christ.

Michael Burk

Bishop Michael Burk, SE IA Synod



I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to **join the Senior Choir this fall!** Whether you’ve sang in the choir for years, or don’t think you can carry a tune but have always wanted to be a part of the group, I encourage you to join us! Rehearsals will be every Sunday before church from 8:30-9:15 am, and we will sing every other Sunday. Come when you can! Ages high school and up. The first rehearsal together will be Sunday, September 10 at 8:30 am! We won’t sing for worship on that morning, rather we’ll prepare pieces for worship on September 17 and October 1. Hope to see you there!

~Mindy DeVries



Sunday School Teachers Needed for Children’s Church!

We need teacher volunteers to help our kids learn about all the exciting things that happen in the Bible.

- Rotational model – we pair teachers up so you don’t have to teach every Sunday
- Our teachers’ manuals are very clear – little to no prep time required

If you are interested, please contact Michelle Siepker or Erika Williams



GATHER AT THE GARDEN

Whether you have a green thumb or not, you are welcome to join us at the church garden on Tuesday evenings starting at 7pm. We’ll be tending to the garden, weeding and gathering produce for the local food/clothing pantries. Remember, anyone can stop out anytime and take what they’d like from the garden.

PALESTINE WOMEN OF ELCA

PALESTINE WOMEN OF ELCA
Monday, September 11, 6:00 p.m.
Salad Supper & Bible Study.

Invite a friend and bring a salad to share. Table service and beverage provided.

In the Gather magazine

FALL 2017: The Apostles' Creed

This fall 2017, take part in a three-session Gather Bible study on the Apostles' Creed and what we together say we believe.

In "The Apostles' Creed," Bible study author Julia Seymour, pastor at Lutheran Church of Hope, Anchorage, Alaska, writes: "Beyond preferences or evenly deeply held convictions, the theological underpinnings of a religious community are the structure for teaching, preaching and action. For our life of faith together, creeds are more than just words. They are vessels for carrying one another through doubt, joy and sorrow."

Session 1: I believe in God...

Session 2: I believe in Jesus Christ...

Session 3: I believe in the Holy Spirit...

The Apostles' Creed is one of the oldest unifying symbols of Christianity. Groups of early Christians needed a tool for teaching and evangelism that explained the basics of the faith. The Apostles' Creed shaped their baptismal training, blessing in dying and how communities of faith defined themselves in faithful union. The creed has three parts or articles. The first article talks about God, the Holy Creator and Parent of all things. We'll explore what the Apostles' Creed says about God—and what it leaves undefined—as well as how this stirs our holy imagination.

The theme for the September 2017 *Gather* magazine is **THE APOSTLES' CREED**: Creeds are more than just words. They carry us through doubt, sorrow and joy.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Fall Cluster 1 Women's Gathering is September 30 at Bethesda Lutheran Church, Ames. Watch for further details.

Fabrics of Faith



The Palestine Piecemakers submitted 8 quilts to the annual Riverside Bible Camp Quilt Auction on August 5th. The Piecemakers also donated 3 quilts from two warm-hearted ladies –

both with the same name, An Onymous! These 11 fabrics of faith netted the camp a financial feast of \$ 1260. Way to sew!

Palestine's faithful, fantastic workers will resume their 2017-2018 quilting quest on September 6th. Then, thread-by-thread, piece-by-piece, and square-by-square, they will fabricate another 175 fabulous works of love for LWR, Project Linus, Riverside Bible Camp, Over-the-Road Ministries, and other local charities like Charlie's CF Angels. All volunteers are invited to join this fun-filled quest on Wednesday afternoons. Food and fellowship are free!

Louise Larson and Cynthia Johnson continue as the fearless leaders following this "possible" dream.



Once Again, the Library committee is having a **"Book Lovers' Book Bash"** this fall. We would like you to donate those used books that have been read

this past year and pick up something new to read this fall/winter. We will be collecting books on Sundays, Sept. 3, 10, and 17. There will be donation boxes for your paperback and hardcover books located by the entry doors. The 'BASH' will be the following two Sundays on Sept. 24 and Oct. 1 for you to pick up 'New to You' books during coffee fellowship. Get ready for winter reading! Bring some, take some!

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

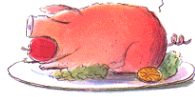
Gilbert Lutheran Church 44th ANNUAL PIG ROAST
135 School Street in Gilbert

Sunday Sept 24, 12-2 PM
New Day!! New Time!

A Free Will Offering will be accepted, suggested ticket prices are: Adults \$10, Senior Citizens/Military \$8, Children 6-12 \$5, Children 5 & under free.

Menu: Smoked pork loin, potato salad, coleslaw, applesauce, baked beans, dinner rolls pies, coffee and lemonade. Carry outs are available.

Proceeds will benefit the GLC Building and Grounds Fund to assist with improvements and repairs in and around the Church property.



Lutheran World Relief kits update

The next shipment will be sent in October. More information can be found on LWR website – www.lwr.org

Guidelines: Please give new items only, except where otherwise noted; Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, or messages; Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.

School Kits – we have 41 complete kits. There are 5 bags available to fill. We also have extra erasers, scissors, pencils, pens and crayons.

Personal Care Kits A list of items to include are available in the confirmation/choir room.

Baby Care Kits – we continue to gather individual items to complete these.

What to Include in School kits (All items should be new and in good condition.)

- Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper approximately 8" X 10½"; no loose-leaf paper
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- One pencil sharpener
- One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One 2½" eraser
- One sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag approximately 14" X 17" with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks)

Please place items in marked boxes in the choir room. Items will be assembled to create complete kits ?s talk to Oriett

Blood Drive October 10

We count on your support so consider giving blood – A Blood Drive will be at **Palestine on Tuesday, October 10 between 3-7 p.m.** You may schedule an appointment to donate blood by going online www.bloodcenterofiowa.org or by calling 1-800-287-4903. Previous donors will be contacted by email or phone.

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.

Wheelchair Pushing at
The Households of Bethany

212 Lafayette Ave, Story City

We will be pushing wheelchairs on Sunday mornings, October 1 & 8, to make worship services possible and meaningful for residents.

You need to arrive about 9:20 a.m. It is helpful to have 4-6 wheelchair pushers so that it goes smoothly. Sunday School classes are very welcome and are encouraged to participate.

A sign up sheet will be available in Fellowship Hall in September.



The NAMI Walk

5K walk to support NAMI
Saturday, September 30th
Terra Park
6300 Pioneer Pkwy,
Johnston, IA
Check-in begins at 8:30 am

Walk begins at 10:00 am



Family-To-Family

Family to Family Class is a free 12 session educational program for family, significant others and friends of adults living with mental illness. It is an evidence-based program taught by NAMI-trained family members who have been there. It not only provides critical information and strategies for taking care of the person you love, but you will also find out that you are not alone and there is hope!

When: Mondays September 11 - November 27th

Where: NAMI CI Center - 416 Douglas Ave, Ste #205, Ames

When: 6:30pm - 9:00pm

Register by: September 1 - 515-292-9400

or namiofci@gmail.com



Direct Support Professionals Week

Do you know someone who is a caregiver to a loved one? It is often both a demanding and meaningful role. During September's National Direct Support Professionals Week, we celebrate all the ways in which these professionals help children and adults achieve their goals and build meaningful lives.

One way LSI is empowering Iowans with disabilities is through our Respite Care program. We offer respite care for both children and adults, providing caregivers with a well-deserved break. Through respite, an individual is able to get out into his or her community and build a strong bond with a respite care provider. It's another way LSI is empowering the people we serve toward a more independent lifestyle.

We thank you for your faithful support of LSI – you create so many new life-changing possibilities for children, families and adults! If you would like to learn more about how you can support these crucial services, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at 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.

It takes a village

Jessica felt overwhelmed.

She spent most of her time caregiving for her daughters, Angelique and Ariana, and she knew she needed a break.

She turned to LSI's Services for People with Disabilities. Through LSI, Jessica and her family could receive respite care for the girls, which gave her some time to take a break and catch her breath.

Angelique and Ariana now receive respite care from their providers, Kaitlyn and Megan. Once a month, Kaitlyn and Megan play games with the girls and get them out in their community, giving Jessica time to take care of herself.

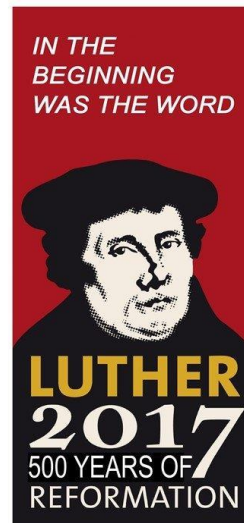
Since last fall, Jessica has seen her daughters become more confident and independent as they've built a strong bond with their LSI caregivers. She is feeling more relaxed and in control of her parenting, and she is happy to see Angelique and Ariana find great role models in Kaitlyn and Megan.

"It was a big decision to open up and feel comfortable with respite care for the girls, but Kaitlyn and Megan have done wonderful things for them," Jessica says. "We're so appreciative for LSI's respite care, and having that resource is just wonderful."

Area Reformation Celebrations

Celebrating the Reformation

October 15 . . . 2:00 pm . . . Stephens Auditorium, Ames

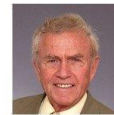


Celebrating the Reformation

October 15, 2017 2:00 P.M.

Stephens Auditorium, Iowa State Center, Ames, Iowa

Freewill Offering



Dr. Paul Maier
Historian and Novelist



Simon Estes
International Opera Singer



Pati Kachel
As Katie Luther



Don Rothweiler
As Martin Luther

Reformation 500 Festival

Singing Heritage ♦ Sustaining Faith . . . St. John's Lutheran & Grand View University, Des Moines, Iowa

Friday, Oct. 27 – St. John's Lutheran Church

5:30 Registration and optional boxed supper (free-will offering)

6:15 Evening Prayer (Vespers)

7:00 Pole-vaulting the Word to the Heart -- God, Luther, and Your Voice

8:00 Night Prayer (Compline)

Saturday, Oct. 28 – Grand View University

All Day Luther Display

8:30 What do you do with the "Braying of Donkeys"? --Luther on Re-forming Worship.

9:30 Morning Prayer (Matins)

10:30 Breakout sessions ♦ Choral Reading session –

Enriching the Congregation's Song ♦ The Road to Reformation ♦ Connecting Faith and Finances for Good ♦ Luther Down and Dirty (confirmation and high school students)

11:30 "Hailing that New Creation" -- Singing as a Mark of the Church

12:30 Mythbusters Luncheon

2:00 Rehearsal at St. John's

Sunday, Oct. 29 – St. John's Lutheran Church

3:00 Reformation 500 Concert ◊ Cantata Introduction ◊ Reformation Symphony ◊ Cantata #80: A Mighty fortress ◊ E'en So Lord Jesus Quickly Come ◊ Other motets/anthems/hymns

Cost: Friday and Saturday -- \$30, Single day -- \$20 Sunday
Concert is Free-will Offering



1-800-372-7748

rlbc@riverside.org
www.RiversideLBC.org

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

Our new [website](#) is now live! Take a look around to see what's happening at camp. Check out Riverside's Facebook page & keep up to date on what's happening at camp.

Upcoming Events

October 7 12:30-4:30 pm Ride with the King (grades 3-5)

October 20-22 Jr Recharge (grades 3-6)

October 27-29 or November 10-12 Jr High Recharge
(grades 6-9)

November 17-19 High School Recharge (grades 9-12)

Reserve the date! Riverside is hosting the Gala on **April 7, 2018**. This Gala will be an elegant evening of food and music, as enjoyed in the past

RIVERSIDE'S 2017 GOLF CLASSIC

September 15th

It's time to sign up for the sixteenth annual Riverside Fall Golf Classic! This year's event will be held at the pristine Veenker Memorial Golf Course. Check in will begin at 9:30 AM, with play beginning at 10:30 AM. You will be able to enjoy lunch while you play.

Join us for a great day of golf with friends that will be helping Riverside build for the future. All donations will be used to help fund Riverside's new swimming pool and restore the historic chapel. Lunch will consist of grilled burgers and brats, with ice cream sundaes after the round. As always, there will be awards and prizes at the conclusion of the day.

Registration

The registration fee of \$100 per person includes lunch, golf, cart, and prizes. Just mail in the form found by clicking the link above to register. This event is just one of the ways Riverside works to accomplish its mission of making Christ known to all. Thank you so much for your support with this event!

Please call Dave McDermott at 515-733-5271 with questions or for more information. See you on the course!

2017 WOMEN'S RETREAT This fall, on the weekend of September 23-24, we will once again have an amazing weekend at Riverside just for women. This retreat is for ALL women of ALL ages! The retreat will begin at 8:30 am on Saturday and concludes with 11:45 am brunch on Sunday morning. The McDermott gals, Jan, Julie (McDermott) Van Hove, Tonya (McDermott) Menuey, Shar (McDermott) Roorda and Danette (Chad) McDermott, will be your speakers, entertainment and project leaders. Stay tuned for more about the 2017 Women's Retreat!!

This is a weekend to be loved, served, taught, and entertained. There will be great food prepared, with no cooking or cleaning to do before or after! It will be a time to laugh, play and pray; a time to reconnect with friends and make new friends and time to be in God's Word. Enjoy God's creation by taking advantage of some options, such as horseback riding, taking a walk, or enjoying a wagon ride around camp. God's creation is so beautiful and this is a great time of year to appreciate the outdoors. There will also be plenty of chocolate and coffee!! Register online today! Cost is \$75. **Register by September 9** to ensure you have a spot.

Along with being filled up and renewed at this retreat, every year our women's retreat has an outreach project to help others in a tangible way. Attendees are asked to bring a white pillow case to decorate (we will supply fabric markers) or double fleece fabric to tie a blanket. We will do these projects together.

2017 Quilt Auction Recap

We continue to be amazed and thankful in how God provides for campers to attend Riverside each and every year, regardless of their financial situation. One way this is accomplished is through our annual Quilt Auction, which in total raised \$48,426.16 for the day! Praise God for his faithfulness. It was a beautiful day, as 245 people attended the auction. There were many laughs and memories made once again at the live auction. The day started with a 5K run/walk, followed by a time of worship. Then folks were able to enjoy a wonder BBQ Pork Tenderloin lunch, as well as peruse through the silent auction, before getting to the live auction. With 235 items auctioned off, we once again want to thank all of the incredible people who helped quilt some incredible masterpieces for this great event. We could not do this without you! Thanks to the many volunteers, our summer staff, as well as all of the wonderful people who bid on quilts. We hope to see you all next year!