



The Palestine Press

February 2012

Volume XXVI Number 2

Monthly newsletter of

Palestine Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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Pastor Jamie Gallagher

Pastor Katie Gallagher

Oriett Snider, Editor

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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."

Living a Generous Life

Jesus sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then Jesus called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

Mark 12:41-44

What a scandal! Jesus is happy this woman gave all of her money; she now has nothing to live on. What's more, she is a widow. In Jesus' culture women were not highly thought of, and widows were even lower. The only hope a widow had was if one of her children (if she even had a child), would take her in and provide for her. Would we not expect our Lord and Savior, the merciful and compassionate Lord and Savior that he is, to be more encouraging of this widow to save her final coins?

But alas – here is the scandal of the Gospel. What we might expect is not always what we find. And what we find always has a twist. In this short story from Mark's Gospel, Jesus isn't commenting on this widow's lifestyle or her social security retirement income or the people's ability to provide for her welfare. He is commenting on a major difference between her faith and the faith of the rich people around her. This woman demonstrates an amazing faith. In giving everything she has, she has only God to rely on.

The wealthy people that Jesus is really commenting on in this story are giving out of their abundance. They don't need to rely on God. They can rely on their own selves. And Jesus is saying, when your underlying motive in giving is "God, I know you are there, but I really don't need you," that demonstrates a really shallow faith. Jesus yearns for his disciples to have the kind of deep faith that the widow expressed, the kind of faith that says, "God I know you are there, and I depend on you for everything."

As February begins, we continue our sermon series "Living a Generous Life". This theme is intended to get us thinking about our motivations in giving to God and our faith that is our basis for giving to God. Throughout this series, we have even heard from members who have shared how your giving to the congregation makes an impact on the ministry our congregation is able to do. I especially enjoyed Christa Hartsook's reminder that the greatest gift we can pass on to our children is the gift of faith.

We have many motivations for why we give to the church. Some give out of habit, because it was what we were taught to do. Some give out of a need to receive a tax-credit. Some give because it is part of the worship service, and it's just what we do. Some give because it is a way to give the gift of faith on to the next generation.

Whatever your motivations are for giving, Jesus makes it clear that he wants us to give as a sign of our trust in God.

At our annual meeting on January 29th, we discussed the vital ministry that is happening here at Palestine. We trust God to provide for that ministry. Jesus invites you to trust God as you bring yourself to the altar and offer everything you have to God. It is my prayer that as you have encountered the Word of God through our sermon series that you have grown in your own faithful understanding of what it means to “offer everything you have to God.” It is my prayer also that you have grown in your trust of God and have grown in your giving response to God’s grace and mercy.

Pastor Jamie

Daily Discipleship themes which will be used for Wednesday morning Men’s Bible study (uses the text for the following Sunday) and Sunday morning Adult Sunday School.

February 5, 5th Sunday after Epiphany

An Attitude of Discipleship: *Serving*

Primary Text: Mark 1:29–39

February 12, 6th Sunday after Epiphany

An Attitude of Discipleship: *Transformed*

Primary Text: Mark 1:40–45

February 19, 7th Sunday after Epiphany

An Attitude of Discipleship: *Boldness*

Primary Text: Mark 2:1–12

February 19, Transfiguration of our Lord

An Attitude of Discipleship: *Listening to Jesus*

Primary Text: Mark 9:2–9

February 26, **First Sunday in Lent**

The Path of Discipleship: Into the Wilderness

Primary Text: Mark 1:9–15

March 4, Second Sunday in Lent

The Path of Discipleship: Beyond Oneself

Primary Text: Mark 8:13–38

DIRTY SNOW

When Pastor Jamie and I lived in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, it was not unusual to get 250-300 inches of snow a year. From the middle of December through the end of April, there was a constant blanket of white on the ground. It was beautiful living in a white world of snow and it was comforting to know that it didn’t keep people from living their lives. In fact, without the snow, a big part of the economy would suffer.

It was always during this time of the year though that the snow was starting to get a little old...and we knew we had about two more months of it left. At times I would wonder if I remember what grass looked like. Sometimes we would have a week or more between fresh snowfalls. In the U.P., it doesn’t get warm enough for it to melt, instead it just gets dirty. It collects garbage, roadside soot, animal droppings, salt and sand. It becomes as my children would call it...yucky.

And yet, perhaps dirty snow is the imagery that should come to mind as we enter the season of lent. “*Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*” These are the words that will be spoken to us as ashes are smudged on our foreheads in the sign of the cross on Ash Wednesday (Feb 22nd). “Why dirty snow,” you might ask. Well, I think there are some particular similarities between our lives and dirty snow.

When our lives are out of sync with our creator, when we put our trust and hope in things other than God, we start to collect the buildup from the road side, the dirt, gravel, grease, garbage, salt, animal droppings and all the other yuck that collects in dirty snow. Our lives are empty and we feel disconnected from God and from one another. We forget to pray. We forget to worship. We forget to serve and love others. We forget to give. We are like dirty snow.

But God has not forgotten us. God still recognizes us in the midst of our dirtyness. The season of lent is a time where we focus in on God’s call to turn our lives around. It is a time for us to remember why we need Jesus. It is a time to acknowledge that we are sinners, like dirty snow. Who can rescue us and save us from our sinful selves? God can! That is why Jesus came to us in the first place...to rescue us...to save us. His pure, white, clean Easter snow washes over us and we are made like new. By following Jesus, our lives get turned around and we are able to put our hope and trust in God. Sure, we will become dirty again. That’s why we need Jesus in our lives...to constantly remind us of God’s desire for us and continually enfold us in the fresh, clean snow of Easter. I look forward to journeying with you this lent.

God’s Peace,

Pastor Katie



The Agape Affair: Lent 2012

Hear O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

This Lent, discover the amazing Agape-Love story between God (Creator) and humanity (creation). On Sundays, we will hear God's covenants with humanity – God's promises to always be our God, no matter what. On Wednesdays, we will hear the command to love the Lord our God, our faithful response.

Watch for the Lent flyer to be in the worship bulletins later this month to have more information on the themes for Sundays and Wednesdays. Mark your Calendar now for Wednesday, February 22nd as Ash Wednesday and Wednesdays from February 29th through March 28th for our Lenten midweek worship series.

Palestine Lutheran Church

Worship & Study Opportunities- February 2012



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

Wednesday, February 1

6:30 a.m. Men's Bible study
6:30 p.m. Confirmation class

Saturday, February 4

7 a.m. Tri County Men's Bible study @ Palestine
Sunday, February 5 5th Sunday after Epiphany
9:30 a.m. Worship: Holy Communion
10:45 a.m. Sunday School, adult class

Monday, February 6

2 p.m. Palestine Women of ELCA Bible study

Tuesday, February 7

6-7:30 p.m. Raising a Healthy Baby

Wednesday, February 8

6:30 a.m. Men's Bible study
6:30 p.m. Confirmation class
6:30 p.m. Women's Fellowship

Saturday, February 11

7 a.m. Tri County Men's Bible study @ Palestine
Sunday, February 12 6th Sunday after Epiphany
9:30 a.m. Worship; Group Blessing of Babies
Installation of Church Council, Officers, Committees, Delegates
10:45 a.m. Sunday School, adult class

Wednesday, February 15

6:30 a.m. Men's Bible study
6:30 p.m. Confirmation class

Saturday, February 18

7 a.m. Tri County Men's Bible study @ Palestine
Sunday, February 19 Transfiguration
9:30 a.m. Worship: Holy Communion
10:45 a.m. Sunday School, adult class

7 p.m. Faithful Parenting

Wednesday, February 22 Ash Wednesday

6:30 a.m. Men's Bible study
7:00 p.m. Worship

Saturday, February 25

7 a.m. Tri County Men's Bible study @ Palestine
Sunday, February 26 1st Sunday in Lent
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. Sunday School, adult class

Wednesday, February 29

6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Midweek Lenten Worship

Easter Mission Offering

April 8, 2012

Palestine's Mission Outreach Committee has designated that Palestine's Easter Mission Offering will go to the ELCA Malaria Campaign.



ELCA Malaria Campaign
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Make Malaria History

A child dies from malaria every 45 seconds.

Today we are in a special moment where we could turn this around. Working through Lutheran churches in Africa, the ELCA Malaria Campaign is uniquely positioned to provide mosquito nets, insecticides, medication, health care, education and more to help eliminate deaths from this disease—for good.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) will join with Lutheran churches in Africa, to work toward a malaria-free future. This effort is part of the ELCA Malaria Campaign, officially launched by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly Aug. 15, 2011 by a 968-19 vote. A goal of the campaign is to raise \$15 million over a four-year period.

Additional information will be made available at church, in bulletins & the Palestine Press or you can visit the ELCA website to get additional information <http://www.elca.org/malaria>

Confirmation Corner

In February our Class will continue to cover the New Testament. We had an exciting introduction to the background of the New Testament and the history of why it was written. Now we will explore different stories in Acts and some of the themes from the New Testament letters and see how they relate to our lives.

On Wednesdays, we will have a couple of interesting topics including War and Peace, and Suicide. On Feb 15th, we will have an activity night with the Social Concerns/Global Missions Committee as we learn about the ELCA Malaria Campaign and develop some resources to help Palestine raise support for that campaign.

During Lent, the Confirmation Class will not meet for Class on Wednesdays, but will still be expected in the midweek worship, and the class will even perform some skits during the Wednesday services that help us engage the theme for that week.

Keep our Confirmation Students in your prayers:

7th Grade: Olivia Ewing, Taylor Larson, Max Shelton, Madison Knutson, Taylor Ness

8th Grade: Mackenzie Davis, Cheyenne Hilton, Jennie Huxford, Alison Teig

Keep our Confirmation Leaders and Guides in your prayers:
Pastor Jamie, Roger Moore, Julie Huxford

Faithful Parenting

Introducing a new opportunity for parents. On Sunday, February 19th at 7 PM Pastor Jamie invites parents of pre-teens and teens to gather for conversation on what it means to parent faithfully during the *wonderful* pre-teen and teenage years. This will be the part of the continuing series of opportunities to grow in our faith as parents, and learn from one another how to parent faithfully.

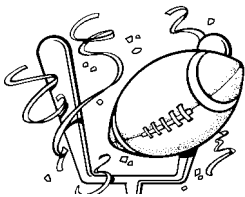
Topics for Faithful Parenting will be announced in the bulletin. At our January 29th meeting a suggestion box was used to gather topic ideas for the class. Join us for Bible Study and a parenting-laboratory where we everyone is both teacher and student.



**Jr. Lutherans Happenings:
3rd graders
thru 6th
graders**

Sunday, February
19, 2012

Jr. Lutherans Ice Skating
1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Meet at church at 1:30 p.m.
Cost to skate \$6.75/child
If you have any questions, please
contact Holly Twedt at 515-597-2858
or 515-360-0135.

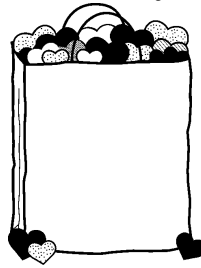


We will kick off
Sunday School's
'Project of
Love' for the
month of
February –

collecting items for the Huxley Food
Pantry – with *The Souper Bowl of
Caring* on Sunday, February 5. More
than 20 years ago, a Super Bowl
Sunday prayer inspired the young
people of a single church to do
something more than celebrate a
football game. They created a legacy
that would help others – *The Souper
Bowl of Caring*.

Everyone in the congregation is
invited to bring one dollar or a non-
perishable food item on Game Day,
Sunday February 5. (note: items will
be counted towards the Sunday
School's goal of collecting 200 items
during the month of February). Soup
pots will be available in Fellowship
Hall before and after worship to
collect your donations. All donations
will be given to the Huxley Food
Pantry.

**Sunday School Special Project for February
Food Pantry**



During the month of February Palestine Sunday
School students will be sponsoring the collection
of non-perishable food items for the Huxley
Food Pantry. You can participate in this 'Project
of Love' by bringing items to church anytime
during the month.

Everyone in the congregation is invited to help
the Sunday School students meet their goal of collecting 200
items during the month of February. A chart will be made so
the students can see when we meet (or exceed!!) this goal

Palestine Social Concerns Committee has set up a calendar of
themed items for each month this year - **A Year of Sharing &
Caring** - for **donations for the Huxley area Food Pantry**.
February is Protein Power month at the food pantry - please donate
dried milk, canned meats, processed cheese spread, peanut butter,
canned beans, nuts, canned fish (tuna, salmon)."

- other needed items for the Food Pantry include...
- ...canned fruit
 - ...paper towels
 - ...toilet paper
 - ...spaghetti sauce
 - ...cereal/breakfast items
 - ...jelly
 - ...soap

Cash donations are always welcome to be able to purchase
vouchers for perishable food items. Make check payable to Huxley
Food Pantry.



Save the date for Bible School is June 18-21. We will again be
running a day camp - this year through Ingham Okoboji Day Camp.
We will be looking for volunteers to serve as class leaders, host
families, a kitchen coordinator and food donations. If you'd like to
help out with this wonderful experience led by outstanding young
people, please contact Christa Hartsook or Julie Emerson.

Day Camp theme this summer is "ALIVE!" from 1 Thessalonians
5:10 and we will explore how we can be a part of God's great big
adventure of life!

Ingham Okoboji will staff our Day Camp with trained counselors
who love kids and who are committed to Jesus Christ.
Congregations and camp staff work together to share the Good
News of Jesus through worship, music, skits, games, crafts, and
Bible-based lessons. Campers interact in both large and small group
settings to dig into the fun. Hands-on activities are used to enhance
the week's theme.

Day Camp is held Monday through Thursday. A camper program on
Thursday is a great way to end the week, showing how the
children's lives have been impacted by the Lord.

Pastors : Jamie Gallagher
 Katie Gallagher
 Church Office: 515/597-2620
 Pastor Jamie cell: 630-200-3550
 Pastor Katie cell: 630-200-3288
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 Church e-mail is: PLC@huxcomm.net
 Church website:
www.palestinelutheranchurch.com
 Fax number: 515/597-2621

Treasurer's Report

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Balance on hand January 24, 2012 | |
| General Fund | \$ 909.30* |
| Designated Funds | 9,838.02 |
| Benevolence | 80.00 |
| Improvement | 4,789.57 |
| Seminary | 50.00 |
| World Hunger | 10.00 |
| Building | 4,408.57 |
| Global Mission | 50.00 |
| Confirmation trip | 450.00 |

*\$7,000 will be due by the end of January for payroll related expenses + \$2,000 is due Feb 1 for quarterly insurance premium



**LOOKING BACK
ON THE YEAR**

Annual Reports are available at church. Contact

the church office if you want us to send you a copy. An electronic report (PDF file) is also available that can be emailed to you. This is a large report – 3.30 MB, 41 pages. A report of the annual meeting and listing of operational committees will appear in the March edition of the Palestine Press.

Sharing the good news of what is happen-ing in & around the SE Iowa Synod is available as a weekly communication to share the ways that “God’s Work. Our Hands.” is coming to expression in congregations, in partnerships around the synod, and in the whole ELCA.

www.seiasynod.org

The Property Committee is asking for volunteers for removing snow *around the church*.



- * There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall for clearing sidewalks.
 - * Michael & Andrew Rasmussen have volunteered to clear drives and parking lots. We have a sign up for reserves to fill in for Michael & Andrew if needed.
- Special thanks to the many of you that have helped in the past several years.

Severe Weather Policy:



When school is canceled because of the weather, all church functions will also be canceled. If weather hits when school is not in session, a message regarding cancellations will be put on the church answering machine (515/597-2620). We will notify the following radio/TV stations if worship or other events are to be canceled WHO, KCCI, KRNT, & WOI. For smaller functions phone trees will also be utilized.

Special NOTE: Please use your own judgment regarding traveling in severe weather conditions.



CTIM: Called Together in Mission

March 10, 2012

First Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids
 Save the date for a great event!

This is an annual S.E. Iowa Synod educational event for lay and rostered people in our synod. The day includes a Keynote address by Rev. Dr. Scott Beebe, a Bible Study written by our keynote speaker and facilitated by volunteers, lunch, two workshop sessions with various topics, and worship. The cost is \$25.

Rev. Dr. Scott Beebe is our speaker and Bible study writer. He's the pastor at the ELCA congregation in Vail, Colorado. He is an avid mountaineer, he's the co-director of Wartburg Seminary's Luther Academy of the Rockies, he has a D.Min. in Christology and Ecclesiology.

For more information visit the synod's website at www.seiasynod.org

Registration materials and workshop descriptions are available online or a copy is available in Fellowship Hall.

February Birthdays

- 3 - Hauge, Michael
4 - Conrad, Kory
6 - Thomas, Alexander
 Twedt, Grant
8 - Hilton, Kyle
 Nelson, Richard
 Saveraid, David
9 - Larson, Alvina
 Shelton, Tom
11 - Shelton, Gabe
 Shelton, Kristin
 VanPelt, Alise
13 - Brendeland, Charles
 Cast, Bernadine
 Kopaska, Deb
15 - Larson, Virgil
 Teig, Dustin
16 - Brendeland, Anita
 Harleen, Melinda
 Larson, Shane
 Maland, Elizabeth (99th)
 Ness, Toni
17 - Halverson, Garrett
 Williams, Matthew
18 - Saveraid, Katherine
21 - Halverson, Austin
22 - Lewis, Aubrey
 Rasmussen, Cheryl
 Thomas, Cindi
24 - Engles, Stacie
27 - Larson, Aaron
28 - Simmons, Dean

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

FEBRUARY

Celebrating Their
ANNIVERSARY

- 14 - Deidre Qual & Merlin Lyon
24 - Leonard & Sue Larson

Remember in Prayer

The following were included in the Prayers of the Church during January...Bob Egeland; Betty Egeland; Carolyn Frederick; Jackie Greene; Wayne Halverson; Orville Hauge; Ruth Hennick; Dorothy & Osmond Larson; Javerna Maland; Mark Tomlinson; Keith & Arlene Wee

- Naga Gopi Kokkligadda & his family of India, child sponsored by Palestine's Sunday School students.
- Those impacted by storms, tornadoes & flooding.
- Those who have lost their jobs.

We extend our prayers and sincerest Christian sympathy...

...to family and friends of **Neoma Tomlinson**

...to family and friends of **Pastor Clyde E. Brueland** *

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

*Pastor Brueland served as 11th pastor of Palestine from March 1958 until April 1962. His obituary is posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. The family requested that any memorial contribution may be donated in Clyde's name to Israel Family Hospice House in Ames, IA.

A Note of Thanks...



Members of Palestine Lutheran, Thrivent Builds would like to thank you for your donation of \$323.00 and for your support of the 2011 Habitat for Humanity home.

Sincerely,
Joel Kruckenberg, Chapter
Specialist

Dear members of Palestine Lutheran Church,
January 9, 2012

Thank you for your gift of \$150.00 to the Madrid Home Communities ACTS (Assistance with Compassion To Seniors) benevolent program. This program makes it possible to offer reduced rates to assisted living residents who have depleted their savings and fall between the cracks of government sponsored assistance programs. ACTS is not an endowment fund, and all contributions are used to provide help directly to assisted living residents with confirmed financial need.

Once again, thank you for helping us fulfill our mission of providing Christ-centered service to older adults.

Sincerely,
Keith Kudej, President/CEO, Madrid Home
Communities

Emily Shipman was the recipient of the seminary tuition appeal monies we sent to Wartburg Theological Seminary. Her letter and photo are posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A warm thank you to all at Palestine Lutheran Church for the generous contribution to Wartburg Seminary on my behalf. It is a great help with the financial burden of attending seminary, and an encouragement in the call that God is leading me to. Thank you for your generosity!

Spring semester is just around the corner, and I look forward to the months that lie ahead. It looks as though it will be another challenging and enriching semester, and I trust it will be! My husband and I are both in our second year of formation at Wartburg and are excited to be embarking on internship this summer – wherever we are placed. We just returned from a j-term class learning about the state church of Iceland, which was eye-opening and inspired greater appreciation in us both. It is always profound to experience the church universal as we engage with brothers and sisters in Christ from around the world – including Huxley, Iowa!

I hope you are well, warm, and enjoying the snow. May the peace of God reign ever fully in your hearts.

In Christ,
Emily Shipman
M.Div. Middler, Wartburg Theological Seminary

ROCK Game Night



Sunday Feb 19 from 5pm-8pm

At Palestine Lutheran Church

Includes . . . Food, Friends, Fellowship, and Fun!!!

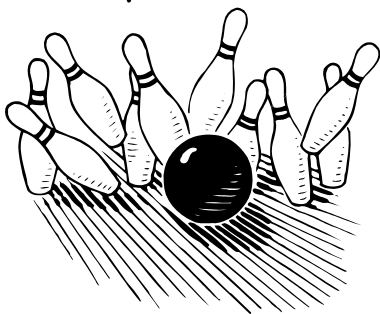
Invite a Friend!!!

RSVP to Pastor Katie at

pastorkatie2002@yahoo.com

or call/text her at 630-200-3288.

Also . . . Mark Your Calendar NOW . . .

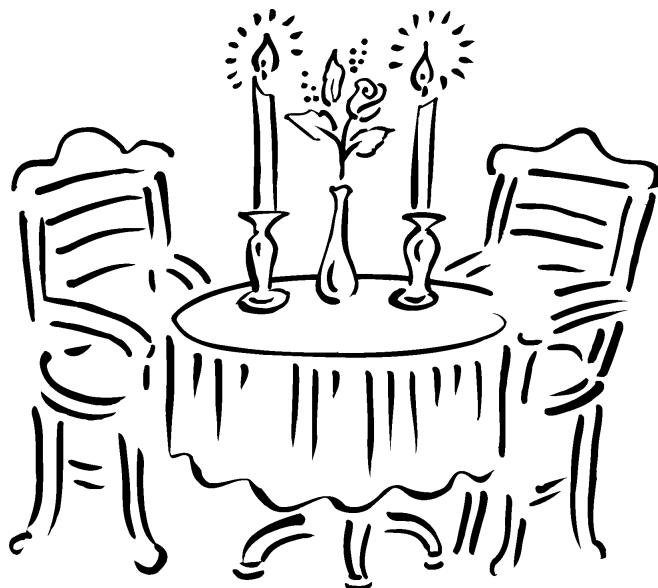


ROCK Bowling . . . Sunday- March 4th

Look for details to come.

Talk to Pastor Katie if you would like
to organize this event.

Dinner by Candlelight



Served by the ROCK Group

At Palestine Lutheran Church

Huxley, Iowa

Sunday, February 12, 2012

Seatings at 5:00 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Childcare provided at the church during the 5:00 seating

Reservation forms available at church. - Please talk to

any R.O.C.K. member, the pastors or secretary
before Thursday, February 9th. to reserve your spot.

Choice of chicken or pork.

Tables will be available for two to eight persons.

Price: \$20 per person-

Includes four course meal and beverage.

CALLING ALL PARENTS WITH TODDLERS AND PRESCHOOLERS!



Please join us for Stepping Stone #2: Raising A Healthy Preschooler

A three-session course for parents of toddlers and preschoolers in the church and community.

THIS IS A FREE EVENT

AT PALESTINE LUTHERAN CHURCH 1375 HWY 210 * Huxley, IA

Tuesdays March 6th, 13th, and 20nd from 6:00p-7:30p

Dinner is included!

Group Blessing of the children will be on March 25th at our 9:30 Service!

What is the purpose of this Stone?

- To teach parents to care for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of their preschooler
- To teach parents to nurture their own physical, emotional, and spiritual needs in the process.
- To spawn the formation of a supportive small group network for these parents
- To call parents to add the practice of praying with their little ones to their nightly bedtime ritual of blessing their children and putting them to sleep with music that features God's Word

What Sessions are included with this Stone?

Session 1: *Preschooler Physical Development*

Parents explore how to care for the physical and emotional needs of their children.

Session 2: *Preschooler Emotional Development*

Parents explore how to protect their own physical and emotional health now that their baby is mobile.

Session 3: *Preschooler Spiritual Development*

Parents are taught some simple prayer techniques to use with their little ones.

Additional Details on Stone #2:

A child's transition from infant to toddler to full-blown preschooler is a period of constant discovery for parent and child alike. From the child's perspective, virtually everything he or she encounters – from the most mundane task to the most unique occurrence – is happening for the first time. Even the most experienced parent cannot help but be touched observing their child's innocent wonder at the way an ice cube melts, or the way a baby bird is fed by its mother...or even their child's pride at successfully mastering (most of the times, anyway) the use of the toilet.

With Stepping Stone 2: Raising a Healthy Preschooler, young parents spend three weeks together sharing, laughing and growing as they learn about their preschoolers' physical, emotional and spiritual health...as well as their own. The course concludes with a group blessing of the preschoolers at the altar in worship. At that time, Palestine will also invite participants into a young families' small group fellowship with the people they've met through this course.

PLEASE LET PASTOR KATIE KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE PART OF THE STONE #2 PLANNING TEAM!

Faith Stepping Stones is not intended to be led by one person, but by a team of individuals passionate about incubating faith for the next generation.

To sign up please e-mail Pastor Katie at pastorkatie@comcast.net or call her at (630)200-3288

Monday, February 6, 2:00 p.m. Bible Study.

September 2011—May 2012

To Follow and to Serve: The Gospel of Mark

The 2011–2012 Bible study challenges us—it’s an invitation to discipleship in the 21st century. The study emphasizes what it means to follow Jesus Christ today. We are called to a living faith, a deeper and more courageous understanding of what it means to follow the one we first meet in Mark’s Gospel at his baptism at the River Jordan.

Session 6: **Tough Questions** found in the January/February edition of Gather. “Take heart, get up, he is calling you.” Mark 10:49

Chapter 10 of Mark’s Gospel is structured around a series of formi-dable questions. Several are posed for Jesus, but in these verses Jesus also asks difficult things of his followers. During this session, the pace slows, inviting us to consider each of these questions carefully.

Surprisingly, each of the questions in these exchanges has a con-temporary feel. They are not only questions for the women and men who met Jesus long ago; they represent the kind of questions we ask—and Jesus asks of us—today.

The theme for the January/February edition of Gather is **You Must Consider This**—“Who do you say that I am?” Jesus asks Peter and we hear that “you” as a question Jesus poses to us today.



Piecemakers’ News

Our Piecemakers have completed over 90 quilts this season. Most of these will be shipped to Lutheran World Relief in April, and some are saved for local needs.

Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp has notified us that their summer quilt auction will be held on Saturday, August 4. Last year 252 quilts were donated and sold for over \$50,000! Our Piecemakers are currently working on several quilts for Riverside’s benefit.

We’re always grateful for donations of fabric and batting and other filler materials and especially for flat sheets for backs.

We meet for work and fellowship on most Wednesdays from 1-4 p.m. Please check this month’s calendar since we will take a break on Feb. 8. More workers are welcome for square cutting, composing and sewing tops, tying, pinning, hemming and more!

The Lutheran – The current issue of the Lutheran is available on the table in Fellowship Hall.

Here’s a look at the February 2012 issue of The Lutheran.

RESOURCES FOR LENT. The Lutheran’s February issue can help you and your congregation begin a study for Lent. Get your conversation started with the cover article, “Falling into the river,” which explains how Lenten spiritual practices invite us to encounter and experience the flow of God’s unspeakable grace. And get 6 ideas for spiritual practices you can do during LentRead “Addition, not subtraction” to learn about 10 things your family can add this Lent. And see what the ELCA presiding bishop has to say about “Finding our place during Lent.”

THE LUTHERAN IS A STUDY RESOURCE. The February issue has topics for individual and group study. Ponder Luke 15:11-32 with Peter W. Marty, who says the parable of the prodigal son is really about the dad’s character and unconditional love. Ask: “What is sin?” Two ELCA teaching theologians say sin is still relevant no matter how much society contends it’s an outmoded, old-fashioned idea. Go in-depth into “Insiders and outsiders” and see what that means for the church today. Rethink the sacraments with “Applesauce communion” — God’s hospitality stretches beyond our understanding. Or discuss what a Lutheran can learn from visiting a monastery (download a study guide for this article — and for more than 300 others that are free to print and Web subscribers—at www.thelutheran.org; click on “study guides”).

THE LUTHERAN HAS IDEAS for you and your congregation. In the February issue **learn** how to “Trash the Neighborhood” and help your community with spring cleaning ... **get** ideas for Earth Day in April ... think about starting a Shakespeare Club in your neighborhood ... **start** a “Blessing Buddies” program to build intergenerational relationships in your congregation ... **get** advice on helping your kids understand people from other cultures and ethnicities ... **learn** about a resource that can teach your children about the world’s major religions ... **find** out what’s worth reading and watching in “Best this month” ... and **meet** an ELCA seminary professor who has some ideas on how you can use popular music to increase youths’ engagement in the church.

STAY CONNECTED to the ELCA — locally and globally. In The Lutheran’s February issue **travel** to Costa Rica and Minnesota to see how a congregation’s mission relationship has changed them ... **go** “Deep in the heart of Texas” to meet Lutherans who are members of start-up congregations that are moving forward in mission ... **read** “The life, times of a churchman” to get David W. Preus’ recollections as a former church leader ... **visit** Peru, where Lutherans strike a musical chord in their neighborhood ... and **see** what’s happening at ELCA colleges, universities and seminaries.

Coming up in future issues of The Lutheran:

- March cover story: Biblical liturgy 101. Professor Timothy Wengert explains the biblical origins of each part of the liturgy.
- See how Lutheran Social Services of New England helps victims of trafficking.
- Move from darkness to light during Lent.
- Ponder justification with ELCA teaching theologians.
- Visit the Asian Rural Institute, an ELCA partner that teaches sustainable farming practices.
- Discover Rejoicing Spirits, which encourages spiritual inclusion for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

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

Beloit

The Beloit Residential Treatment Center is situated in a neighborhood area at 1323 Northwestern Avenue in Ames. Children ages five to 15 live in two facilities on campus, including the new Anna J. Hull Treatment Center. A wooded area, playground and grassy playing field are also campus features. Beloit is certified by the Council on Accreditation (COA).

items needed ALL the time:

- **Toiletries:** shampoo, conditioner, lotion, body wash, loofahs, toothpaste, mouthwash, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, toothbrushes, hair brushes and combs, towels and washcloths
- **Underwear, Pajamas, and Socks** (youth small to adult small for boys and girls)

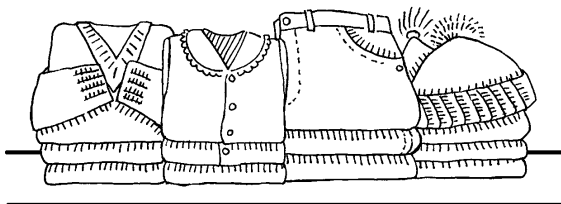
Please NOTE – because of health regulations they are able to accept donations of NEW underwear & socks only.

There is a box on the counter in Fellowship Hall to collect items. Questions – talk to Deb Moore.



Look for Friends of the Madrid Home membership renewal in the bulletins.

The "friends" program will turn its focus to indoor projects this year after several years of fundraising for outdoor beautification. Doreen Blackmer & Deb Moore are delegates to the Madrid Home from Palestine



March is Clothes Pantry Month for Palestine

We will be staffing the Ballard Community Clothes Pantry during the month of March. Watch for a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. The Clothes Pantry is open –

Wednesday evening from 4 to 6 p.m.

Saturday morning from 10 to 12 noon

Sunday afternoon from 1 to 3 p.m.

There are 5 Saturdays, 4 Sundays and 4 Wednesday nights in March so we welcome and need many volunteers. It is a fun experience. You will be instructed in what you need to do. A special thank you to those volunteers who served last year!

Palestine Mission Outreach (Global Mission/Social Concern)



Blood Drive February 7

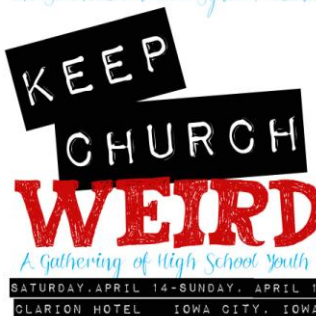
We count on your support so consider giving blood – The Bloodmobile will be **at Palestine on Tuesday, February 7 between 1-6 p.m.** You may schedule an appointment to donate blood by going online www.bloodcenterofiowa.org or by calling 1-800-287-4903. A calling committee will be calling previous donors.

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.

NAMI Central Iowa (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will be offering the **Family to Family** course for family members of adults with mental illness, beginning at 7:00 PM on February 20 at DMACC in Boone. This 12-session class focuses on the major mental illnesses, discussing treatments and skills that family members need to cope more effectively. All classes and materials are free. Registration is required. For more information see the poster on the bulletin board or contact Deb at 292-9400 or namiofci@gmail.com

Mark your calendars for April 14-15, 2012 for the annual

The Southeastern Iowa Synod Presents:



Southeastern Iowa Synod High School Gathering! The event will be held at the Clarion Hotel in Iowa City. The weekend will be packed with exciting opportunities for your youth, including our guest speaker and musician, Nate Houge, hearing God's Word from Pastors Paul Amlin and Stacy Grau, large group activities, small group discussions, workshops, youth worker training, time to nurture congregational relationships, and creative and meaningful worship. Registration will be available at www.seiasynod.org by February 1!

The importance of positive parenting

Parents: role models, healers, supporters, teachers and leaders. February has been named National Parent Leadership Month. It is an opportunity to publicly recognize and honor parents for their leadership roles in their homes and communities.

LSI recognizes the critical importance of parent leadership. Through LSI's early childhood and family services we help strengthen families, prevent child abuse and neglect, and build strong communities. Your support of LSI allows us to continue to support families across Iowa, and is key to bringing a source of hope and creating wholeness for families in your community.

For more information on LSI, visit www.LSIowa.org. Join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

“Be the best parent you can for your kids”

As three-year-old Kristina chatters away in the living room, her mom Raechel can see the similarities.

“She definitely is feisty,” Raechel said laughing. “I see the determination in her that I’ve pushed myself through already.”

Now 17, Raechel was only 14 when she gave birth to Kristina. Although teen pregnancy is a leading reason why girls drop out of high school, Raechel never saw herself as a statistic.

“I just want to say to teen moms that just because the unexpected happened you should still try to make the best of it and be the best parent you can for your kids,” she said.

Raechel should know. She finished high school while working part-time and earned her acceptance into college where she is now beginning her freshman year. She also knows how valuable support was in helping her achieve those goals.

Raechel enrolled in LSI's HOPES, an in-home visitation program that helps parents by providing information, education, links to community resources and support. Linda, an LSI family support worker, says she understands what moms experience because she's been there.

“I understand what it feels like to be scared and nervous – not knowing if you're doing something right or what the best thing to do is,” she said. “I love seeing families succeed – when they accomplish things and are proud of themselves.”

As families pursue their goals, HOPES is there to help and to cheer them on.

Lutheran Day on the Hill – Your Voice Can Change Lives

Lutheran Services in Iowa's Lutheran Day on the Hill is taking place on March 12, 2012. This day is essential in giving a voice to those who are not heard, for seeking social justice and for empowering people to exercise their right and responsibility to be part of the legislative process.

People working together and speaking out can make social change happen.

Lutheran Day on the Hill 2012 will begin at Elim Christian Fellowship in Des Moines at 9:30 a.m. The morning will include brief advocacy training and stories of hope told by LSI clients. After lunch, the group of passionate advocates assembled will make its way to the Capitol to speak with legislators.

Enjoy fellowship on the Lutheran Day on the Hill bus to the Capitol.

Thanks to a grant from ELCA World Hunger, a charter bus will be leaving from Davenport and stopping in Iowa City and Newton on its way to Des Moines. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to get a ride to the event and enjoy fellowship with other advocates along the way. Space is limited so register today!

Strengthening our partnership in advocacy.

Lutheran Services in Iowa and the three Iowa Synods of the ELCA are working closely together to make Lutheran Day on the Hill bigger and better than ever. This event is a great example of the strength of this partnership, and how together we can have an even greater impact on the lives of the most vulnerable people in our state through our advocacy.

Register for Lutheran Day on the Hill online today at www.LSIowa.org/advocate

LSI's People Place ABC (After Baby Comes) group meets regularly during the week (Thursday mornings from 9:30-11:30). Designed for parents of infants to preschoolers, this group features occasional presenters on age-appropriate topics.

ABC Program Schedule

LSI's People Place – 219 6th St., Ames
(Group meets 9:30-11:30am
with presenter from 10-11am)

For more details about classes and services? Please contact us at **515.232.1677** or peopleplace@LSIowa.org. 219 6th Street, Ames, IA 50010

- ❖ February 2: Open Discussion
- ❖ February 9: Hy Vee Dietitian Amy Clark
- ❖ February 16: Open discussion
- ❖ February 23: ISU Family Finance Program: Financial Mgmt. with Barb Wollan
- ❖ March 1: Open Discussion
- ❖ March 8: ISU Family Finance Program: Banking with Barb Wollan
- ❖ March 15: Open Discussion
- ❖ March 22: ISU Family Finance Program: Credit with Barb Wollan
- ❖ March 29: Open Discussion
- ❖ April 5: Raising Readers - “Move with Me”: Mona Berkey



3001 Riverside Rd,
Story City, IA 50248
1-800-372-7748

RLBC@Storycity.net

www.Riversidelbc.org

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

The Riverside Gala! - February 25, 2012

Please join Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp for Gala 2012 on Saturday, Feb 25. Doors open at 6:00 P.M. with hors d'oeuvres; dinner is served at 7:00. Enjoy live music by the Al Welsh Orchestra as well as a silent and live auction to support Riverside's growing ministry. Tickets are \$100 per person. Call the Riverside Office at 515-733-5271 for tickets. Sponsored in part by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp is north of Story City at 3001 Riverside Road.

Riverside Marriage Retreat - March 2-4, 2012

What does a Marriage Retreat look like at Riverside? The weekend is filled with sessions with our speakers, God's Word, worship, skits by our program team, lots of fun, fellowship and laughter. It is a time to get away from our normal schedules, the phone ringing, demands as being parents, housework, cooking, dishes, yard work, etc.! Take the time to be with your spouse in an atmosphere which encourages godly marriages, lasting relationships, friendships within marriages, and fellowship with others.

"Seasons of Marriage"

To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven. -Ecclesiastes 3:1

The Riverside Marriage Retreat hopes to offer husbands and wives a refreshing opportunity to slow down... To re-group... To re-claim... To re-reflect... To re-commit... To re-charge... To re-discover...

Our weekend together is designed for you to have some time... You will be provided some space to focus on Biblical principles that can nurture increasingly joy-filled and sturdy marriages... You will be offered moments to reflect individually - and as couples... You will learn new things as we discuss in small and large groups... You will be challenged spiritually... You will make new friends... You will be invited to laugh and to sing... You will experience fellowship and community... You and your spouse will be encouraged to "stay in it" - for the long haul... You will be invited to heal and forgive... You will be reminded that marriage exists not for selfish reasons - but for the glory of God...

WHAT'S A BLAST?

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

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

Blast! 2012 Dates – Arrive between 9:00 am – 9:30 am

March 31 - Juniors (Grades 3-6)

April 14 – Junior & Senior High (Grades 7-12)

Men's Retreat - April 27-28, 2012

The first ever Riverside Spring Men's retreat is this April! It is open to all men 18 and over or 13 and over if accompanied by a father, guardian, or grandfather. During this weekend you can look forward to: faith building in an open environment, fellowship with other men, interesting and applicable teaching, authentic worship, powerful prayer time, service time, great food, s'mores at the campfire and a steak fry!

Why? To get away for time with each other and time with God, to have a good time together, and to let our souls be revived. And, because men don't get to do stuff like this very often! Let's take advantage of it!

More information will become available as the event approaches, including our speaker and registration information. Stay tuned!

Fee: \$50 Register by April 20th to ensure your spot!

Summer 2012 Theme!

Summer 2012's theme is "Alive." The theme verse from 1 Thessalonians 5:10 says, "He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him." God's amazing love for us is shown through His Son, Jesus Christ, and how He gave up His life for us so that we could be alive like He is. That's right, He's alive! And not just walking and breathing—He is the fullest life we could have! Thanks to Jesus we can be alive.

Check out their website for details regarding dates, programs, and discounts.

Registration form is available online.

Early Bird Discount!

Register before February 15, 2012.

\$20 discount for Alpha program

\$15 discount for Juniors/Jr. High/Sr. High

\$25 discount for Ranch Camp