

# THE HERALD



*From the Pastor:*

*April 2017*

As most of our Presbyterian Churches are declining, it is more and more difficult to support the budget, and to support the cost of a full time, seminary trained, ordained pastor. Almost half of our Presbyterian churches do not have their own seminary trained, full time pastor. The minimum salary for a Presbyterian pastor in Homestead Presbytery for 2017 is \$45,840. If a church provides housing, the minimum is smaller. On top of this, the church is required to pay the Board of Pensions benefits, which includes health insurance, disability, and a retirement pension. On a presbytery's minimum salary, the cost for the benefits is about \$16,700. (The cost for the benefits with the Board of Pensions is a percentage of the annual effective salary.) The salary and benefits for a full time pastor costs over \$62,000 a year. On top of this are the pastoral expenses for mileage, books, periodicals, continuing education, and other professional expenses, which can add another \$5,000 or more.

So how are churches obtaining pastoral leadership at less cost? There are a number of possibilities.

Sometimes a church can find a part time pastor – often someone who is retired or who chooses to work part time. In these cases, participating in the Board of Pensions benefits program is not required.

Some churches are yoked with another church. Two churches maintain their separate properties and their own identity while sharing a pastor. The pastor preaches at both churches every Sunday morning. Sometimes, more than two churches share one pastor. Sometimes the two churches may be of different denominations.

Some churches merge. Both churches close their churches, and they become a new congregation. They may sell one of the properties, and use the property of the other church. Sometimes both properties are sold, and a new facility is built, bought, or rented. Churches of two different denominations may merge, forming what is known as a federated or union church.

The pastor of a local church may be a “tent-maker” who works part time for the church, but has another job for income. They may own their own business or have another job. “Tent-maker” comes from the apostle Paul in the New Testament. He was not a full-time evangelist, but literally made tents to support himself while traveling around as an evangelist.

In the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), a ruling elder can become a commissioned lay pastor, sometimes called a commissioned ruling elder (CRE). This ruling elder has been trained through some program provided by a seminary, a college, or the presbytery. The presbytery then commissions this person to pastor a church. The presbytery can grant permission for the CRE to officiate at the Lord's Supper and baptism at that particular church. A CRE can moderate the session and congregation of the church to whom he or she has been commissioned. Their ministry is limited to the church to which they have been commissioned. If they leave that church, they cannot officiate at the sacraments or moderate meetings without the presbytery's approval. CREs can be full-time or part-time. Churches are not required to pay a minimum salary nor are they required to provide benefits to CREs. More and more of our smaller rural churches are pastored by part-time CREs. In some presbyteries, particularly rural presbyteries, more churches may be served by CREs than by installed pastors.

Pastoral leadership in local churches can take many forms. In all cases, a church's decision for selecting pastoral leadership requires a time of discernment and should not be hastily made.

*Raymond A. Meester*



## APRIL BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

06 Wyatt Kendle  
 06 Carson Pierce  
 07 Leanne Miller  
 13 Stephanie Newman  
 13 Larissa Vaughan  
 16 Duane Kennedy  
 17 Zoe Tomas  
 24 Greg Mason

*Please notify the church office if your birthday or anniversary was omitted or incorrect so we can make the necessary changes.*

## HERITAGE BIRTHDAY CLUB

**Congratulations to new & renewing Heritage Birthday Club Members:**

**Patty Wahlgren, Elisabeth Wahlgren, Helen Weber, George Neill, Barb Kennedy**



Consider renewing or joining Heritage's Birthday Club. Donations (usually 1 dollar per year of life) are made to our endowment fund.

## ANNIVERSARIES

13 Greg & Robyn Mason  
 27 Lew & Karen-Griffin Sieber



## OUR CONDOLENCES

We would like to extend our condolences to the family and friends of Mary Lund as she passed away February 20<sup>th</sup>.

## THANK YOU

To our Heritage Family-Thank you for all your love and support during and after Larry's heart surgery. It was greatly appreciated. Thanks again, Larry & Sharon Baker, Missy, Lynette and their families.



## COFFEE CORNER

Easter is right around the corner, so stop by our Coffee Corner to pick up a bag of delicious Fair Trade Chocolate. Coffee, Tea and Olive Oil is also available.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Circle will meet April 4 at 10:00 AM in the Gibson Room. We invite all women to join, even if you have not attended before.

## SPRING GATHERING OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Plan to attend the Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women at Southern Heights Presbyterian Church in Lincoln on April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9 AM-12:30 PM. Register by April 12 (lunch is \$8.00) Registration forms are in the Narthex.

## WOMAN'S RETREAT

Sue Nelson is planning a Woman's retreat. The retreat will take place at Camp Calvin Crest September 22-23. The cost of the trip is dependent on room occupancy. A single room is \$105/pp, a double room is \$90/pp, and a triple room is \$85/pp (includes all meals). Kathy Little will be the guest speaker for the event. If you are interested, please sign up on the sheets provided in the Narthex or by the parking lot entrance. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Nelson.

## MISSION TRIP

Due to scheduling conflicts, the mission trip has been postponed to the fall of 2017. We will keep you posted.

## WANTED: FOOD PANTRY WORKERS

Thank you to mission committee members, Ramona Meester, and Scott & Laurie Helvie for volunteering on Wednesday food distributions at the Eastridge Food Pantry. If you would be interested in helping, we are still looking for assistance at 3:00-6:00 pm on the following dates:

- Wednesday, April 19
- Wednesday, May 17

A sign-up sheet is posted on the Mission bulletin board in the narthex. Training will be provided by Eastridge volunteers at the beginning of each shift.

## PER CAPITA FOR 2017 IS \$39.25 PER MEMBER

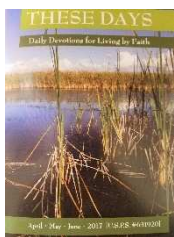
In 2017, our per capita assessment is \$5,769.75. So far, we have received \$1,936.25. Thanks to all who donate their \$39.25 above & beyond their general giving as it helps us to reach our budget for the year!

## LENTEN CHALLENGE

The mission committee would like to THANK everyone who has given to help the hungry in our community through the Food Pantry during the Lenten season:

- \$79.68 was donated during the Cents Ability collection on Sunday, February 26
- \$162.00 was donated at our pancake supper prior to Ash Wednesday services
- 51 items of non-perishable food or personal items were donated during the first two Sundays.

We aren't asking anyone to "give up" anything for Lent – instead we are asking people to "give" to help the hungry in our community!



### THESE DAYS

The April/May/June edition of *These Days, Daily Devotions for Living by Faith* are now available for you to pick up in the Narthex and by the parking lot entrance.

## ONGOING YOUTH FUNDRAISERS PLEASE SAVE BEST CHOICE UPCs AND USED PRINTER CARTRIDGES

**BEST CHOICE** We have submitted 2,000 Best Choice UPCs with our bonus certificate and are awaiting a check for \$90. Keep saving Best Choice UPCs! Each Best Choice UPC nets 3 cents for our Youth! Thanks to all who continue to support this mission!



## EASTER LILIES

Lilies are such a beautiful addition to the Sanctuary on Easter morning. If you have not already filled out an order form, we hope you will consider ordering one or more plants in memory or in honor of someone special in your life. Oak Creek Plants & Flowers are providing the plants, and the cost

per plant will be \$9.25. Your check for the total number of plants ordered should be made payable to Heritage Presbyterian Church, and indicate that it is for Easter lilies. You can either place your order form and check in the offering plate on Sunday morning, or mail it to the church office. Deadline for ordering is **Monday, April 10, 2017**. Please call the Church office (402-477-3401) or Karen Minks (402-304-3934) if you have any questions.



## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING:



## YOU SHALL BE CALLED REPAIRERS OF THE BREACH (ISAIAH 58)

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts:

- assist Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to work within communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters;
- help the Presbyterian Hunger Program take action to alleviate hunger and its systemic causes, and helps create access to healthy food for entire communities; and
- allow the Self-Development of People to partner with people and communities with tools for development and education to alleviate poverty, oppression, and injustice.

With our support, OHGS will continue to be a reminder that through the simple act of sharing, we are blessed and experience God's abundance in surprising ways. Please help the mission committee reach our goal of \$600.00. Thank you to all who give!

## SYNOD SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Synod School will take place at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, IA from July 23-28. Course Catalogs are available on the bulletin board or in the Coffee Corner. You can visit the Synod's web site [www.lakesandprairies.org](http://www.lakesandprairies.org)



Registration is online beginning March 1 ([www.regonline.com/Synod-School-2017](http://www.regonline.com/Synod-School-2017)) however, the registration forms can also be submitted by mail or email to the Synod office.

## EASTER EGG HUNT CANDY NEEDED

Donations of wrapped candy for the Easter Egg Hunt would be greatly appreciated. Please leave any donations that you have in the church office.







## WILLS AND WAFFLES

Join us for “Waffles and Wills” on Sunday morning, April 2, starting at 8:30 A.M.

in Fellowship Hall. We will have two people making presentations about estate planning and wills.

Estate Planning is your ultimate opportunity to use your assets to reflect the values you’ve held through your lifetime. The Presbyterian Foundation offers services to individuals who wish to make charitable contributions through Planned Giving and Estates. Minner will introduce those products and services: investment accounts, trusts, outright bequests, endowments, gifts of property or possessions, and others. Minner Serovy is a representative for the Presbyterian Foundation.



Andrew Loudon, moderator of Homestead Presbytery’s Planned Giving Task Force and a Trusts & Estates attorney with

the Lincoln law firm of Baylor, Evnen, will be speaking on the topic “The Top Ten Mistakes made in estate planning and how you can avoid them.” As a service to the congregation, Andrew will provide free health care directives or living wills to all attendees. Andrew is a Presbyterian Preacher’s kid and a non-ruling elder at Eastridge Presbyterian.

## ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT



Please join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt that will take place Saturday, April 8th (Saturday before Palm/Passion Sunday) at 11:00 AM.

We hope you will also plan to stay for hot dogs, chips, cookies & drinks immediately following.

## USHERS ARE NEEDED

Ushers are needed for worship on a weekly basis. Please consider volunteering your time. You may sign up with the Head Usher or contact the church office. We appreciate your help!

## CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Church Women United will meet April 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM. The meeting will take place at Aldersgate United Methodist Church located at 8320 South Street.

## DUCS (YOUTH GROUP NEWS)

The DUCs will meet on April 8th at 3:30 PM. Please watch your emails for a time change to coordinate with the Easter Egg Hunt that will be happening that day.

March 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> the DUCs participated in an overnight retreat at Camp Ashland where a great time was had by everyone in attendance.



DUCs visiting the Holy Family Shrine during 2017 Retreat “The Mountaintop Experience.”



## ANNUAL PEACEMAKING EVENT

Please plan to attend the 31st Annual Peacemaking Event hosted by First United Methodist Church 2723 N. 50th St

**Sat., April 29**

**Bridges Out of Poverty  
9 AM – 3:30 PM**

*Bridges Out of Poverty:  
Strategies for Professionals and Communities*

Presenter: Allyn Sampson, Lincoln Food Bank

**Sun., April 30**

**Building Neighborhood Strength  
1:30-3:30 PM**

*Block by Block - a New Model for Lincoln*

Workshop Leader:  
Rev. Adam Barlow-Thompson  
Co-founder of SoCe Life, Wichita, Kansas

# LECTIONARY FOR APRIL

April 2<sup>nd</sup> - Ezekiel 37:1-4; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

April 9<sup>th</sup> - Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27: 66

April 16<sup>th</sup> - Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-18

April 23<sup>rd</sup> - Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

April 30<sup>th</sup> - Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

## SAVE THESE DATES

**May 18<sup>th</sup>** - Homestead Presbytery meeting in Schuyler, NE

**May 21<sup>st</sup>** - Last Sunday for Sunday School

**May 29<sup>th</sup>** - Memorial Day, Church office closed

**July 23<sup>rd</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>**-Synod School

**September 22-23<sup>rd</sup>** - Women's Retreat at Camp Calvin Crest

# THE HERALD

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The Rev. Dr. Raymond Meester, Pastor

[www.HeritagePres.org](http://www.HeritagePres.org)

**DEADLINE FOR THE  
NEXT HERALD**



April 17, 2017

Items received after  
this date may not be included!