

LifeConnect

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR LIFEQUEST MINISTRIES
JANUARY, FEBRUARY & MARCH 2019 – VOLUME 15

newsletter

Annual Congregational Meeting—Jan 27

Everyone who is actively engaged in the life and ministries of LifeQuest is invited to attend this informative meeting for our congregation. Join us as we celebrate all God is doing, pray big and plan for our future, together!

LifeQuest held its very first Annual Congregational meeting a year ago end of January. We are gearing up for this year's gathering on **Sunday, January 27**, and are encouraging everyone to attend, as we share and celebrate some of our highlights and accomplishments, as well as some of the challenges we've experienced as a community of faith in 2018. We'll also share several of the goals and objectives that are currently being discussed for our future. We need your valuable input/feedback, faithful prayers and gifts; as well as your continued involvement, as we

work together to accomplish these goals and objectives for God's glory. We are facing some critical decisions over the next eighteen months, requiring our presence, as we openly discuss our current realities, hopes and dreams.

We will begin at 10:30 a.m. and conclude with prayer and a pot-luck meal. Please make a special effort to join us for this important Sunday, as we come together to honor and serve God and one another in this faith community!

YEAR-END GIVING STATEMENTS

We thank you for your generous financial giving for the ongoing ministries of LifeQuest in 2018, both close to home and all over the world. We are deeply indebted to you for supporting our church, and its ministries through your financial gifts, offerings and tithes. Our gifts have blessed many lives!

Every giving unit will be receiving an official year-end giving statement for 2018 tax deduction purposes. Statements will be ready to pick up at church on **Sunday, February 3**. If you need to your statement sooner or need to make other arrangements, please let Paige or Pastor Wes know.

Dates to Note:

- January 13—Communion Sunday
- January 27—Annual Congregational Meeting & Potluck
- February 3—Fellowship Event “Super (Bowl) Sunday”@LifeQuest
- February 10—Communion Sunday
- March Mission—Meals from the Heartland...watch for more details!
- March 3—Ash “Sunday” Service; New Lenten Sermon Series Begins
- March 6—Ash Wednesday...Lent Begins
- March 9—Fellowship Event “Bowling” @B&B Theaters in Ankeny (1pm)
- March 10—Daylight Savings Time; Communion Sunday
- March 12—Lenten Study & 40-Day Prayer Challenge Begins

Spring 2019 Mission Focus

...Meals from the Heartland

Our mission focus this Spring will be to recruit as many volunteers as possible from LifeQuest, so that we can be a part of the mission endeavor at Meals from the Heartland. This nonprofit, 501(c) 3 organization is made up of volunteers from businesses, schools, churches, community organizations and beyond, who come together to package meals for delivery to malnourished people in Iowa, across the United States and around the world. Their mission is empowering people to save the starving, and their vision is to alleviate life-threatening hunger through education, engagement and feeding.

LifeQuest would like to join hands with Meals from the Heartland during Lent. We will set aside a **Saturday morning in March**, to go to their packaging facility and help pack meals with other groups. Please contact Sergio Gonzalez for additional information and/or if interested in participating. Please also check our Facebook page, website, Sunday bulletin and other communication from our church, for additional announcements. We will soon share more information about a date, time, sign up, etc.

Proverbs 22:17

"A merry heart does good like medicine"



Quest Kids

Kids & Parents...we need your feedback on a new kids curriculum we're trying out...

Along with Ke'Auna Meeks, we will be piloting a new curriculum for **QuestKids**, from "ShareFaith Kids!" This is an amazing and relevant curriculum that we hope will inspire your children in their faith journey, teach them the stories of the Bible, as told through His Word, and guide them in their relationship with Jesus! We are tentatively planning to pilot this curriculum from **January 27 to February 17**. We'll be sending home samples of what they will be

learning, as well as providing families with access to devotions, (via email) to share in together at home. Our hope is to help your children grow in their faith, while also bringing parents into the lessons. We welcome and appreciate any feedback; from both parents and children, so please share your thoughts about ShareFaith Kids.

Please visit with Ke'Auna, Pastor Wes and/or Paige if you have any questions.

Director of Music

LifeQuest is currently in search of a Director of Music. This part-time position; (8-10 hrs. week) is primarily responsible for the planning and leading of our praise and worship each Sunday. The Director of Music will also recruit persons with the gifts of music, and eventually develop a music team, here at LifeQuest. If you know of anyone who has a passion for this ministry, please visit with Pastor Wes and/or have them contact him @weslifequest@gmail.com Please also pray for God to bring us the right person, at the right time.

Welcome to Our New Board Members

Please join us in welcoming Raissa Kiwayiele, Pamphile Kiwayiele, Sergio Gonzalez and Deb Ingram to the LifeQuest Ministries Board of Directors. Staff members also serving on the Board are Pastor Daniel & Pastoral Assistant, Paige Chapman.

The primary task of Board members is to represent the needs of this faith community, as well as to discern and make decisions in the best interest of LifeQuest; and its future, as they serve to meet our current needs, hopes and challenges. Please keep all of our Board members in your prayers, as they work together to lead our church diligently and faithfully in this critical and sacred capacity of service and leadership.



Pastor's Pen

Reflect and pray over this devotional thought from Pastor Wes...

I don't know about you...but when I am driving, I frequently use my rear view mirror. Most of us do, of course. Some of us, perhaps, use it too frequently, and some of us use it infrequently. I am completely okay with seeing flashing lights come towards me; however, I despise seeing flashing lights that are following me! My heart skips a beat when this happens! In any case, I think it's safe to say, when we are sitting in the driver's seat, we keep our eyes mostly fixed on what's ahead of us, than what's behind us.

In a number of places in the Scripture, we are encouraged to look back and thank God for all that He has done in our lives. We are to celebrate God's unfailing faithfulness in the past; as well as to learn from the past, while still keeping our eyes fixed to the future.

We've just come to the close of 2018, and we stand at the threshold of another new year! As we do so, we cannot help but look back into our own individual lives, the lives of our family, and the life of our church. We pause and count our blessings and testify to the marvelous things God has done and brought us through.

Just as it is important for us to look at the past, we must also keep our eyes fixed on the future. The Scriptures repeatedly teaches us that we are to place our trust in the God of the past, present and the future. As the Israelites were coming out of captivity from Egypt, and as God delivered them miraculously and provided all that they needed, God asked them to commemorate God's faithfulness by placing a rock and calling it, "Ebenezer," which meant, **"Thus far, God has been with us and he will be us for the future."** What a marvelous witness and testimony!

As a community of faith, none of us know what our future holds for us, be it personally or collectively as a church. But, you and I can confidently say, we know one thing: **"Thus far, God has been with us and God will be with us for the future."** What a comforting word to hear as we embark on another year. The same God who has been with us yesterday, and for today, WILL be with us for the days ahead! So, we cling to this hope, and we relentlessly keep on moving forward to seize all that God has for us in this coming year!

Best of all...God IS with us!
Pastor Wes Daniel

I INVITE EVERY PERSON TO USE THE VISUAL TO THE RIGHT; AS ONE WAY TO KEEP SHARING THE GIFT OF AN "INVITATION" TO LIFEQUEST WITH THOSE AROUND YOU...IMAGINE THE NUMBER OF LIVES EACH OF US CAN REACH, BY WALKING OUT OUR FRONT DOORS...



Testimonials...

*Below are a couple of the testimonials recently shared by friends and members of LifeQuest... **A FIRST HAND ACCOUNT OF GOD AT WORK IN OUR LIVES!***

"As an outsider just being curious, LQ has changed myself and family in so many ways! Just a few that come to mind is the community and the accepting feeling that is felt within the first visit. Each message is touching and helps me reflect on my spiritual journey. It is an absolutely kid friendly church and I feel as though my two-year old son receives a message as well. My son asks to go to church! The morning circle is such a unique and special touch, that allows even parents to understand what is being told at a child level communication." -Ashley, John & Theodore Phelps

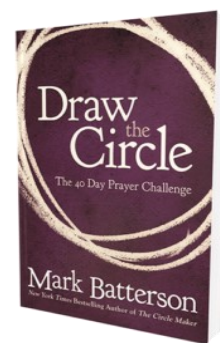
"I love LifeQuest because it's not like other churches, it's a place where there's no judgement and there's just love. It's a place where your kids can come and learn and have fun. I left my old church because I felt judged when I had my son; by the main people in the church, and the leaders of the church. LifeQuest is a place where I can unload all of my potential, where I can share the plan that God has for me. It's my family." -Ke'Auna Meeks



Sermon Series/LifeGroup Studies

- **CURRENT SERMON SERIES**—We know that belief has a unique function in our living, a critical and essential role in the drama of human life! The realisms that impinge upon our lives are many times beyond the reach of our knowledge, too intricate for us to comprehend. The only way we can relate to much of life's circumstances is to **BELIEVE**, discovering how our beliefs are our way of reaching out to connect to what is real. Join us for this series, **"When We Believe"** December 30, 2018—January 27, 2019.
- **NEW LENTEN SERMON SERIES**—Regardless of where we begin in our respective faith journeys, we all have a place at God's Table! Despite the fact we are different people, from different backgrounds, male or female, young or old, rich or poor; we are all sinners, united by a common faith and hope in God! And yet, when we are invited to **"Come to the Table,"** we are reminded of His grace and that we belong! At LifeQuest, we have purposely lived out our vision and mission to **INVITE** others to **"Come to the Table..."** to **"come, taste and see"** that the Lord is good, and discovering a place we belong! Join us for this new series beginning March 10.

- **LIFEGROUP LENTEN STUDY**—Our Lenten study will begin on **Tuesday, March 12**, and will continue **Tuesday evenings of March 19, 26 and April 2**. **We will plan to meet in various homes, so if you'd be willing to open up your home for one of these dates, please let Pastor Wes or Paige know.**



For this study, we will be journeying through a **40-Day Prayer Challenge** by Mark Batterson called, **Draw the Circle**. Draw the Circle will take us through forty faith-building stories of God answering prayers, daily scriptures and prayer prompts. Batterson will inspire us to pray and keep praying like never before. Begin a lifetime of watching God work! Believe in the God who can do all things, as you experience the power of bold prayer and even bolder faith in this study. You will not want to miss out on this amazing LifeGroup, which will draw you closer in your relationship and journey with God and each other.

HOLY OBSERVANCES COMING UP...Lent begins **March 6** and ends **April 18, 2019**; Ash Sunday service: **March 3**; Maunday Thursday, **April 18**; Good Friday, **April 19**; Easter Sunday, **April 21**

Upcoming Fellowship Events

"Super (Bowl) Sunday"...February 3rd

Join in a fun time of worship and fellowship on **Super Bowl Sunday, February 3rd**. Wear your favorite team jersey to church, and bring your favorite "game day" food to share with everyone! We'll hear an inspirational message: **"God's First Half,"** cheer on the teams who will be playing in the Super Bowl, and tail-gate on some great food! Get your game on at LifeQuest, this coming Super Bowl Sunday!

"Let's Go Bowling"...Saturday, March 9th

Everyone is invited to an afternoon of bowling at the NEW Ankeny B&B Theaters, Bowling & Arcade on ***Saturday, March 9 at 1:00pm**. Cost is \$5 per person for an hour of bowling. (shoe rental is an additional \$4 adult/\$3 child). Please watch Sunday bulletin to sign up. This awesome new facility also has movie theaters with play equipment for the kids, if your family would like to catch a movie later.

***PLEASE NOTE:** Need a minimum of 6 people to hold this event.

