



*Reaching out in Christian love to all!*

 **Palestine**  
Lutheran Church

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Huxley, IA 50124  
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**THE PALESTINE PRESS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
January 2021**

**Rev. Eric Klimpel, Pastor**  
**515-597-2620**  
**936-444-3895 (cell)**  
[ericklimpel@gmail.com](mailto:ericklimpel@gmail.com)



**Nels Dovre, Youth Liason**  
**319-331-7368 (cell)**  
[dovren@gmail.com](mailto:dovren@gmail.com)

### **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.”

### **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.



Pastor Eric will be doing limited visitation for members who would like to have one. Please contact Pastor Eric if you would like to have a visit. You do not have to wait for him to call.

Call 515-597-2620 or email [ericklimpel@gmail.com](mailto:ericklimpel@gmail.com)

We would like to work out what is best and safest for the visit and distribution for each person.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Page(s)

Pastoral Care .....	2
Pastor's Monthly Report .....	4-5
Study & Prayer Opportunities .....	6
Daily Faith Practices .....	7
Quilter Update .....	8
Birthdays and Anniversaries .....	9
Monthly Calendar .....	10-11
Council Minutes .....	12-13
Prayer List for December .....	14
Annual Meeting Information .....	14
Snow Removal Sign up .....	15
Severe Weather Policy .....	15
Church Progress Pictures .....	16
Thank You's .....	17
LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story .....	18-19

### Tithes & Offering

Palestine will accept your offering!

1. **Bring** to worship service with you and place in offering plates.
2. **Mail** check to:

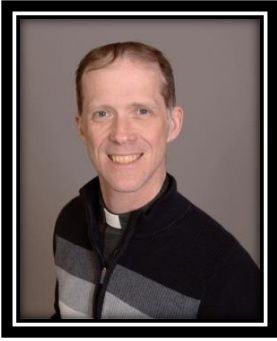
Palestine Lutheran Church  
1375 HWY 210  
Huxley, IA 50124

3. **Give online through Easy Tithe.**

Go to our website [www.plchuxley.com](http://www.plchuxley.com) and click on the bright red ONLINE GIVING tab on the right located above our "Reaching out in Christian love to all" statement.

*Thank you. Continue to pray and know God is with us.*

➡ **Tithing envelopes for 2021 will be available to pick up from your mailbox in fellowship hall soon!**



## Deconstructing 2020 To a Firm Foundation in Christ .....

### With Pastor Eric

***Luke 6:46-49 - <sup>46</sup>Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I tell you? <sup>47</sup>I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them. <sup>48</sup>That***

***one is like a man building a house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when a flood arose, the river burst against that house but could not shake it, because it had been well built...***

I don't know about you, but it took me about four months into the pandemic to put my "hard hat" on my head and another couple months to put my "tool belt" around my waist especially after the Derecho blew through the state. It seemed that the world's foundations were coming apart because we had to physically distance from everyone – family, friends, coworkers, strangers. Our treasured institutions like churches, schools, sports ☺ and holidays suddenly began to fall apart with anxiety and questions about how to engage in them without physically gathering. It seemed that things were falling down all around me and after the dust settled a bit, I realized that it was time to assess and determine what was standing, what needed to be rebuilt, what need to be torn down and what new things would need to be conceived for the future.





Our theme for Advent was "Deconstruct." The word "deconstruct" is a verb meaning, *"to reduce something to its constituent parts in order to reinterpret it, to adapt or separate the elements of for use in a radically new way, and to take apart or examine something in order to reveal the basis or composition often with the intent of exposing biases, flaws, or inconsistencies."* I believe that God's work in 2020 lends itself to deconstructing our church, culture and lives. We didn't plan for a pandemic and what has been uncovered in our society in its wake. We

didn't plan for a freakish windstorm to blow our roof off, or trees over, or house down. I like to think that God had some involvement in these events in order to teach, prepare and nudge us to stop and assess our lives, our country, and our faith. We have all experienced grief and loss of family and friends, relationships and milestone experiences. Amidst the traumatic events of this time, we are called to confess, repent and be thankful for what we learn about ourselves and our core values, so that we can reorient and reconnect with real and abundant "LIFE"!

Palestine has responded to this time by acknowledging the deconstruction and discerning where, how and to whom God is calling us to reach out in Christian love. We see the inconsistencies in ministry and administrative practices. We reflect on our level of engagement with social issues as they impact our community and purpose. Our building remodel and recovery brings conversations about what's next for ministry into the future. We are in transition along with other institutions in our life and God has given us an opportunity to do some soul searching and refocusing on "who we are" and "whose we are." We are counting the costs, leaning on the Lord and reaffirming the foundation upon which we stand as Christians and as a community. Let's secure that "hard hat" and cinch up that "utility belt" and get cracking with new life before us with God all around us.

***Let us pray. Thank you, God, for nudging and accompanying us into a new reality. Help us to reflect and learn from the lessons of this time and trials, so that we might focus with renewed life and commitment to our future in and with you. Thank you for your Son Jesus who suffered loss and stripped of everything gave his life for us, so that with his resurrection we might rise up to new life with him always and forever, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.***

# Study and Prayer Opportunities

<p><b>Sundays</b> @ 8:00 a.m.</p> 	<p><b>ZOOM Dawn Dialog with Jesus</b> Reflection and prayer on Gospel text for the Day <i>"Where two or three are gathered in my name, then I am there among them." (Matthew 18:20)</i> Material will be emailed with the announcements for you to review on your own.</p>
<p><b>Tuesdays</b> @ 6:30 p.m.</p> 	<p><b>ZOOM Bible Study</b> The topic for discussion will be "Serving". Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. You can participate either by audio (phone) or video (computer). Have your Bibles in hand.</p>
<p><b>Wednesdays</b> @ 7:00 a.m.</p> 	<p><b>Men's Bible Study</b> in the Council Room</p>
<p><b>Wednesdays</b> @ 12:00 noon</p> 	<p><b>ZOOM Power of Prayer</b> An invitation was emailed out to enter into prayer together every Wednesday. You can email in a prayer request or call the church with a special request. We will pray together for 30 minutes. Join once or every Wednesday! If you would like an invite, call or email Pastor Eric.</p>



# Daily Faith Practices

Daily discipleship themes can be used for Bible study. They are available on the ELCA website [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org) →Resources→ Downloadable Resources→ Bible studies

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

**Focus:** *How do you describe grace?*

**“From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.”**

John 1:16 (NRSV)

Read John 1:10-18

## **Epiphany Week 1**

**Focus:** *How does a disciple listen to Jesus?*

**“This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him.”** Mark 9:7(NRSV)

Read Mark 9:2-9 aloud.

## **Epiphany Week 2**

**Focus:** How does baptism connect disciples with God and other disciples?

**“You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”**

Mark 1:11 (NRSV)

Read Mark 1:4-11

## **Epiphany Week 3**

**Focus:** *How do you respond to Jesus on a daily basis?*

**“Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.”** Mark 1:17 (NRSV)

Read Mark 1:14-20

## **Epiphany Week 4**

**Focus:** *How might disruptions help you to know Jesus?*

**“I know who you are, the Holy One of God.”** Mark 1:24 (NRSV)

Read Mark 1: 21-28.

# WHAT'S COVID? WHO'S DERECHO?



These Quilters don't let anything keep them from creating and giving! They have been in the basement, balcony, and fellowship hall moving around the construction to find their "spot" to work almost EVERY week through it all!

December was still monumental for delivering their gifts:

- ❖ 20 quilts to Madrid Home.
- ❖ 15 quilts to Mary Greeley Pediatrics. They took 20 earlier this year to them for a total of 35 this year!
- ❖ 20 quilts were given to Project Linus.





- 1 Haylie Clark  
Reagan Doty
- 3 Ryan Engles
- 4 Darren DeHaven  
Lori Schonhorst
- 5 Tracy Sheldahl
- 6 Sarah Hartman
- 7 Henry Rumbaugh
- 9 Angie Hartman  
Kent Klingbeil
- 11 Jay Harmon  
Tracy Rhoads
- 12 Laurie Biederman,  
Tom Friedrichsen
- 13 Missy Larson
- 14 Escher Kopaska  
Mollie Sheldahl
- 15 Richard Cast
- 17 Deb Stowe
- 18 Bruce Hartman  
Kevin Williams
- 19 Eden Richter
- 20 Casey Huxford

- 22 Cynthia Johnson
- 25 David Anderson  
Colton Larson
- 27 Melissa Kopaska
- 29 Harold Rittgers
- 30 Tyler Johnson  
Lesa Lewis  
Judy McKinney



- 2 Pastor Eric & Teri Klimpel
- 27 Tom & Cindy Friedrichsen

*If there is a record of error or omission, please let the office know at [palestinelutheran@gmail.com](mailto:palestinelutheran@gmail.com) or 515-597-2624.*



### **Food Pantry Ministry** -

Help serve at the local food pantry in Huxley with our Fjeldberg friends.

Volunteer at the pantry!  
Contact Jackie Rasmussen  
([catsrus@huxcomm.net](mailto:catsrus@huxcomm.net))

FEBRUARY 2021						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						
Notes:						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY
	<b>28</b>
<b>3</b> 8:00 a.m. Dawn Dialog via Zoom 9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion	<b>4</b>
<b>10</b> 8:00 a.m. Dawn Dialog via Zoom 9:30 a.m. Worship; Epiphany of our Lord <i>Annual Reports Due</i>	<b>11</b>
<b>17</b> 8:00 a.m. Dawn Dialog via Zoom 9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion	<b>18</b>
<b>24</b> 8:00 a.m. Dawn Dialog via Zoom 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Annual Meeting	<b>25</b>
<b>31</b> 8:00 a.m. Dawn Dialog via Zoom 9:30 a.m. Worship	<b>1</b>

## January 2021

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURS.	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>29</b> 6:30 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study	<b>30</b> 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:00 p.m. ZOOM Palestine Prayer Time	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> HAPPY NEW YEAR!	<b>2</b>
<b>5</b> 6:30 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study	<b>6</b> 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:00 p.m. ZOOM Palestine Prayer Time 1:00 p.m. Quilters 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Confirmation	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>12</b> 6:30 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study	<b>13</b> 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:00 p.m. ZOOM Palestine Prayer Time 1:00 p.m. Quilters 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Confirmation	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>19</b> 6:30 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study	<b>20</b> 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:00 p.m. ZOOM Palestine Prayer Time 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Confirmation	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>26</b> 6:30 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study	<b>27</b> 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:00 p.m. ZOOM Palestine Prayer Time 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Confirmation	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>2</b> 6:30 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study	<b>3</b> 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:00 p.m. ZOOM Palestine Prayer Time 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Confirmation	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>



## **Agenda – Palestine Lutheran Church Council Meeting**

Sunday, December 6th, 2020 @ 8:00 AM at Palestine Lutheran Church  
Zoom link for those who are remote:

Kristin Shelton, Jean Saveraid, Brad Lewis, Tim Wilson, Candi Engler,  
Brent Emerson, Hailey Clark, Jen Pote, Pastor Klimpel, Deidre Qual, Nels  
Dovre, David Eisenmann

A quorum was established.

**Devotions** Brent — There is a God, and we are not it.

**Read Vision and Mission Statements**

**Goals and Reflections:** Carpet is in and we had a successful Cookie Extravaganza.... Be kind to others....

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** Jean Saveraid motioned to approve. Candi Engler seconded. Unimaginable Support for the minutes passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Deidre read the written report. Nels Dovre motioned to approve. Hailey Clark seconded. All chorled their ayes accordingly.

General Fund: \$1,257.87

Checking Balance Total: \$85,586.26

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Klimpel — See attached report. How to do Christmas Eve services.

### **New business:**

1. Need to find a replacement for Cynthia Johnson. Nominating Committee.
2. Zoom with Bishop. January 12th Meeting with Synod. 5:30-6:40. Church assembly for Cincinnati in 2021.
3. Annual Meeting Format. For the annual report "Reports". Ask Committees to add to their report "3 goals for 2021" as part of their report. January 24th, 2020 is Annual Meeting
4. When you think of kindness, what does it mean to you? What words or actions come to mind? What is one thing you will do this to practice kindness.

### **Unfinished Business:**

Construction Update. North Hall will be ready for paint at the end of this week. Carpet will be December 23rd and 24th. Should be really close the week of Christmas. West fellowship will get vinyl done. Ceiling will finish up this week. Painting early next week. Sanctuary carpet is done. Basement windows are blocked in and the demolition is beginning. Midwest Basement starts December 16th with the dry-in project.

**Motion to Adjourn & Adjourn with Lord's Prayer:** Nels motioned to adjourn. Dave Eisenmann seconded. Kirsten VanSoelen sang the vote.

Next Meeting: January 10th, 2020

Treats- Kristin

Devotions- Nels



## ***Remember in Prayer***

The following were included in the Prayers of the Church during December:

Tyler Anderson, Anita Brendeland, Darrell Brown, Dick Brown, Penny Brown, Joan Carson, Alisha Cox, Bev Echtenkamp, Jackie Greene, Dolores Hauge, Christa Hartsook, Warren Johnson, Kevin Klingbeil, Alvina Larson, Ardell Lundgren, Merlin Lyon, Mary Martin, Loree Ness, Deidre Qual, Shannon Tope, Joyce Volz, Sara JoAnn Young, Phil Zeller

Family & friends of: Angie Claude, Arlene Wee, Judy Smith, Sharon Mortenson, Valerie Brendeland, Sue Ihle, Ralph Kalsem, Dean Simmons, Charles Brendeland, Tanner Houseman, Jimmy Young, Darrell Rout, John Maier, Travis Ellis, John Johnson, Mae Rivard, Doris Ness, Nathan Stupka, Bart Mason, Lowell Elliott, Kaytie Anderson, Harold Long, Brian Sykes



The annual meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2021.  
Deadline for submitting annual reports is January 10, 2021.

Please email to the church office: [palestinelutheran@gmail.com](mailto:palestinelutheran@gmail.com)

We will attempt to livestream this meeting so all can be involved.



## SNOW Removal

**Volunteers Needed for Parking lots and drives (including parsonage drive) and sidewalks! Of course, you can just show up as well!**

We're using SignUp.com to organize our upcoming SignUps. Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1) Go to this link to see our SignUp on SignUp.com:

<https://signup.com/login/entry/7670201095322480117>

2) Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.

3) Sign up! It's Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp.com.

*Note: SignUp.com does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact me and I can sign you up manually.*

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## Weather Policy Reminder

Severe Weather Policy: When school is canceled because of the weather, all church functions will be canceled.

If weather hits when school is not in session, a message regarding cancellations will be on the church website ([www.plchuxley.com](http://www.plchuxley.com)) and the church Facebook page (Palestine Lutheran Church). **Sunday morning worship service cancellation will be made no later than 8:30 a.m.**



# CHURCH PROGRESS



*Part of the Restoration Crew that helped empty the basement and move pews out of balcony. Thankful for all the volunteers!*



*Mike Larson pictured in this fun job of climbing scaffolding, replacing light bulbs, and cleaning the fixtures.*



*December 6<sup>th</sup> was our first worship service with new carpet!*



*Thank you to everyone for their love, thoughts and prayers for me and my family at this time. It is very appreciated.*

*Denise Elliott*



*We want to thank all the members who sent us cards, Christmas letters and pictures. We enjoyed receiving them. Also, thanks to the K.I.C.K. group for the gift bag with the card and note, the masks and tree ornament. Wishing all of you a Happy New Year.*

*Bernadine & Dick Cast*

## **Raising Our Voice for Iowa Children and Families**

Families struggling without access to mental healthcare. Human services providers overworked and underpaid. Former refugees and immigrants striving to build new lives.

These are all issues faced by Iowans. Help us ensure their voices are heard at the Iowa State Capitol.

This legislative session may look different from past years. But now more than ever, Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) will be advocating for our community members who are so often overlooked in our society.

You can join us in this important work. Visit [LSIowa.org/advocacy](https://LSIowa.org/advocacy) and sign up for our Advocacy Alerts. Learn more about the legislative process, the issues impacting your neighbors, and your role as a citizen in helping to amplify their voices. If you would like more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563-676-2065.

*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 [LSIowa.org](https://LSIowa.org) and [facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

## **Compassion During Crisis**

Across the state, LSI team members work with families at risk of child abuse or neglect, connecting them to the tools and resources they need to keep their children in their homes whenever safely possible.

One of the critical programs available to parents is the Strengthening Families program. The program typically provides 14 weeks of in-person parent group work, family activities, and a family meal to enhance child development, help parents create their own support network, and reduce the likelihood of child abuse or neglect.

When COVID-19 created challenges to this in-person model, LSI did not give up on the families who relied on this important service. Instead, LSI's Behavioral Health Intervention Services team has gone virtual.

Maria, a program supervisor with LSI, has been leading a virtual version of the program this year, where families join a Zoom meeting and use "breakout rooms" for individual sessions. Meals are purchased from Hy-Vee and delivered the night of the session, so families are still able to celebrate their tradition of eating together each week.

This year has created several challenges for all of us, but LSI continues to answer the call and provide the high-quality care and services Iowa children and families deserve.

Palestine Lutheran Church

1375 HWY 210

Huxley, IA 50124-8110

Address service requested