



*Pal*estine

Lutheran Church

June 26th, 2022

3rd Sunday of Pentecost

Reaching Out in Christian Love to All

1375 Highway 210

Huxley, IA 50124

Pastor: Eric Klimpel

Pastor's Email: ericklimpel@gmail.com

Pastor's Office: 515-597-2620

Pastor's cell phone: 936-444-3895

Youth Liaison: Nels Dovre

Secretary's Office: 515-597-2624

Church Email: palestinelutheran@gmail.com

Church Website: www.plchuxley.com

3rd Sunday of Pentecost

June 26th, 2022

We have no good apart from God. That makes Jesus' call to follow him an invitation to freedom. This is freedom to revel in the Spirit's fruit: love, joy, peace, and patience. This is freedom to not be imprisoned by anything that would keep us from the fullness of the life God has given us. This is the path of life.

*=Stand as you are able **Bold Print** = congregation responds

ELW=Red Evangelical Lutheran Worship

PRELUDE

Ringling of the Bell

GATHERING *The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father,

and of the ✙ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word,

and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

***GATHERING SONG "O Holy Spirit, Enter In" ELW 786**

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O Holy Spirit, Enter In



1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, en - ter in, and in our hearts your
2 Left to our - selves, we sure - ly stray; oh, lead us on the
3 O might - y Rock, O Source of life, let your good Word in



work be - gin, and make our hearts your dwell - ing. Sun of the soul,
nar - row way, with wis - est coun - sel guide us; and give us stead -
doubt and strife be in us strong - ly burn - ing, that we be faith -



O Light di - vine, a - round and in us bright - ly shine, your strength
fast - ness, that we may fol - low you for - ev - er free, no mat -
ful un - to death and live in love and ho - ly faith, from you



in us up - well - ing. In your ra - diance life from heav - en now is
ter who de - rides us. Gent - ly heal those hearts now bro - ken; give some
true wis - dom learn - ing. Lord, your mer - cy on us show - er; by your



giv - en o - ver - flow - ing, gift of gifts be - yond all know - ing.
to - ken you are near us, whom we trust to light and cheer us.
pow - er Christ con - fess - ing, we will cher - ish all your bless - ing.

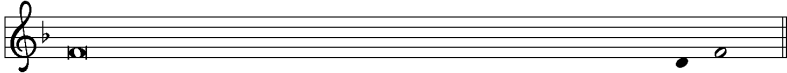
*GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.



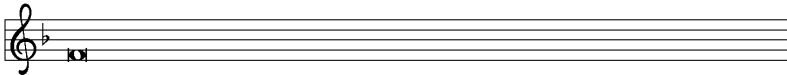
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



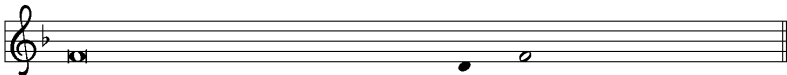
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



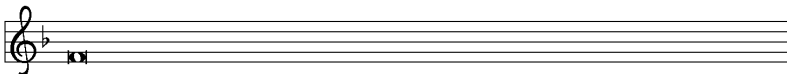
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



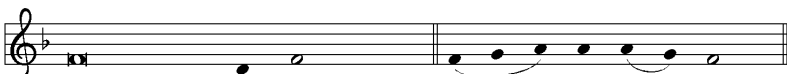
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



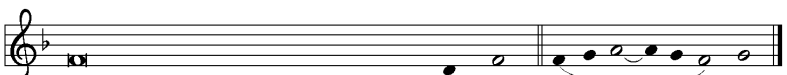
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Sovereign God, ruler of all hearts, you call us to obey you, and you favor us with true freedom. Keep us faithful to the ways of your Son, that, leaving behind all that hinders us, we may steadfastly follow your paths, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD *God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

In the story preceding today's reading, the prophet Elijah flees for his life to the security of God's mountain. There God reveals to Elijah that there are still other faithful people in Israel and commissions him to anoint new leaders, including his own successor, Elisha.

¹⁵Then the LORD said to [Elijah,] "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place.

¹⁹So he set out from there, and found Elisha son of Shaphat, who was plowing. There were twelve yoke of oxen ahead of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle over him. ²⁰He left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." Then Elijah said to him, "Go back again; for what have I done to you?" ²¹He returned from following him, took the yoke of oxen, and slaughtered them; using the equipment from the oxen, he boiled their flesh, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 16

- ¹Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;
I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”
- ²All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.
- ³But those who run after other gods
shall have their troubles multiplied.
- ⁴I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,
never take their names upon my lips.
- ⁵O LORD, you are my portion and my cup;
it is you who uphold my lot.
- ⁶My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.
- ⁷I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night after night.
- ⁸I have set the LORD always before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.
- ⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.
- ¹⁰For you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see the pit.
- ¹¹You will show me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

SECOND READING: Galatians 5:1, 13-25

For Paul, the freedom Christ gives is not permission to do whatever we want. It is the invitation to be what we could not be

otherwise. The power and guidance of Christ's Holy Spirit produce a different kind of life, one marked by the fruit of this Holy Spirit.

¹For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

¹³For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. ¹⁴For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

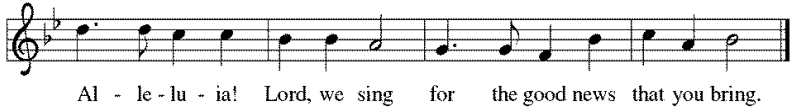
¹⁶Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, ²¹envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²²By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. ²⁴And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL: Luke 9:51-62

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 9th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus is unwavering in his commitment to his mission in Jerusalem and will not be swayed by pettiness. In a series of striking cases in point, he calls his disciples to a similar single-mindedness.

⁵¹When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵²And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; ⁵³but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" ⁵⁵But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶Then they went on to another village.

⁵⁷As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ⁵⁹To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ⁶⁰But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go

and proclaim the kingdom of God.”⁶¹ Another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.”⁶² Jesus said to him, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

REFLECTION HYMN “Just a Closer Walk with Thee” ELW 697

Text: North American traditional; Music: North American traditional; public domain.

Refrain



Just a clos-er walk with thee, grant it, Je-sus, is my plea;



dai - ly walk-ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



- 1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
- 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal-ter, Lord, who cares?
- 3 When my fee-ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;



Refrain

I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.
 Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.
 guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

SERMON

HYMN

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

ELW 798

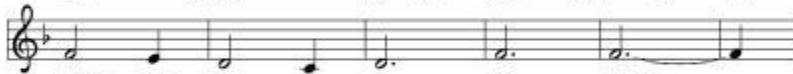
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1 “Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
2 “Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
3 “Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
4 “Will you love the you you hide if I but call
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
your name? Will you care for cruel and
your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners in -
your name? Will you quell the fear in -
my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
kind and nev - er be the same?
free and nev - er be the same?
side and nev - er be the same?
you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do what as
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
world a - round, through my sight and touch and
foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?
pray'r in you and you in me?
mean in you and you in me?
sound in you and you in me?
grow in you and you in me.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church,
the creation, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God of faithfulness, set the face of your church firmly on you.
Rooted in your self-giving love, may the church find freedom in
loving our neighbors.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of gentleness, strengthen the earth’s ability to heal. Where there are dangerous storms, bring calm. Where there are destructive fires, bring rain. Protect homes, habitats, and livelihoods threatened by climate disasters.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of peace, guide all who govern, that they place the good of their citizens above self-promotion. Anoint leaders of nations with your Spirit of neighborly love. Protect refugees and all who live under tyranny or conflict.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of kindness, reveal your healing presence to all who are sick or dying (*especially*):

Tyler Anderson	Jean Bair	Penelope Brown
Joan Carson	Matt Carver	Tonya Crees
Bev Echtenkamp	Arlyce Engles	Julie Gentry
Phyl Hughes	Warren Johnson	Kevin Klingbeil
Alvina Larson	Roger Larson	Merlin Lyon
Lynzee Makowski	Thomas McBride	Matthew Moore
Loree Ness	Kathy Saveraid	Rachel Sinclair
Deidre Qual	Karen Rew	Harold Rittgers
Shannon Tope		

Uphold those who grieve. Support the needs of any who are unemployed, hungry, or have nowhere to lay their heads.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of love, attend to those struggling with addiction, depression, or uncontrolled anger. Provide support systems and loving companions as they work toward health, that they may rest in hope and know the fullness of joy in your presence.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of joy, we give thanks for all who have died and now celebrate the inheritance of life in you. *Especially:*

Family and Friends of: Darrell Rout, John Maier, Travis Ellis, Mae Rivard, Doris Ness, Nathan Stupka, Bart Mason, Lowell Elliott, Kaytie Anderson, Debbie Bollmeyer, Linda Lantz, Hannah Tjernagel, Barb Larson, Jackie Greene, Roy Greene, Ardell Lundgren, Judy Fausch, Mary Nienow, Norma Dovre, Sara Prochnow Ojard, Joe Curtiss, Nancy (Ness) Weber, Lilah Hurley, Marlys Larsen, Harriet Sheldahl, Abby Huntrods, Marilyn Saveraid, Mary Lou Hoover, Roy Paradise, Anita Brendeland

Keep their examples of faithfulness always before us, that we trust your promises in life and in death.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping.

Amen.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN:

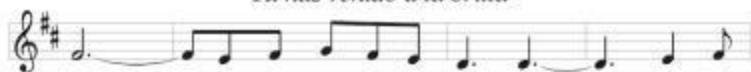
“You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore”

ELW 817

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You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore

Tú has venido a la orilla



1 Tú has ve - ni - do a lao - ri - lla, nohas bus -
 1 You have come down to the lake - shore seek - ing
 2 You know full well what I have, Lord: nei - ther
 3 You need my hands, my ex - haus - tion, work - ing
 4 You who have fished oth - er wa - ters; you, the



ca - do nia sa - bios nia ri - cos; tan só - lo
 nei - ther the wise nor the wealth - y, but on - ly
 trea - sure nor wea - pons for con - quest, just these my
 love for the rest of the wea - ry— a love that's
 long - ing of souls that are yearn - ing; O lov - ing



quie - res que yo te si - ga.
 ask - ing for me to fol - low,
 fish nets and will for work - ing.
 will - ing to go on lov - ing.
 Friend, you have come to call me.

Refrain / Estribillo



Se - ñor, mehas mi - ra - do a los o - jos; son - ri - en - do,
 Sweet Lord, you have looked in - to my eyes; kind - ly smil - ing,



has di - cho mi nom - bre. En laa - re - na he de - ja - do mi
 you've called out my name. . . . On the sand I have a - ban - doned my



bar - ca; jun - to a ti bus - ca - ré o - tro mar.
 small boat; now with you, I will seek oth - er seas.

*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through

the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior
and Lord.
Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever.
Amen.**

SENDING *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

***BLESSING**

The God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

*SENDING SONG

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

ELW 843

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- 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil-dren with a strong yet gen-tle word;
- 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate; Christ, who suf-fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris-'ners, turn-ing blind-ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc-ing, two-edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal-ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease.
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn-ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad-ness, see-ing what our God has done.



calm-ing storms and feed - ing thou-sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench-ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem-ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Ringing of the Bell

Postlude

For streaming and printing:

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Those Serving in Today's Service

Pastor: Eric Klimpel

Accompanist: Mindy DeVries

Youth Liaison: Nels Dovre

Lector: Lyle Martin

Technicians: Brent Emerson, Austin Klimpel

This Week at Palestine

Today, June 26, 2022 *3rd Sunday of Pentecost*

8:00 a.m. ZOOM Dawn Dialog

9:30 a.m. Worship

New member orientation in conference room

Adult Catechism

Tuesday, June 28, 2022

7:30 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study

Wednesday, June 29, 2022

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

10:30 a.m. Green Hills Devotions

12:00 noon ZOOM Prayer time

6:30 p.m. Prairie Fest Parade Planning Meeting @ Palestine

Sunday, July 3, 2022 *4th Sunday of Pentecost*

8:00 a.m. ZOOM Dawn Dialog

9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion (pre-packaged); outside service (*weather permitting*)

Adult Catechism

Lectionary texts: Isaiah 66:10-14; Psalm 66:1-9; Galatians 6:[1-6]

7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Thank you for your Gifts for Ministry

Sunday, June 19th, 2022:

Attendance: 55

General: \$2,278.28

Benevolence: \$25.00

***THANK YOU!!! We celebrate your generosity and thank you
in advance for your support.***



Southeastern Iowa Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

E-News Prayer: Pray that we might follow Christ with passion and commitment, sharing the good news, inviting others into faith and showing grace toward our neighbor when we encounter resistance, difficulty or disbelief.



Food
at
First



feed people  recycle food

Palestine is serving at
Food at First
Sunday, July 17th
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

We will serve and clean up a meal for guests.

WHO: Anyone 5th Grade or 10 years or older is welcome to sign up for a volunteer position. A parent or adult should volunteer alongside anyone age 10 to 13. Ideal for those looking for volunteer hours.

WHERE: Lower Level, 611 Clark Ave, Ames

Sign up in the fellowship hall or at tinyurl.com/foodatfirst-plc

Visit foodatfirst.com for more volunteer information.

IOWA CUBS

Join us Friday, August 5th

7:08 p.m. game with fireworks afterwards!

\$5 per person – bring a friend!

The Evangelism/Fellowship Committee has purchased a group of tickets for family and friends of Palestine. Tickets are only \$5 per person – friends and guests are welcome!

Sign up at tinyurl.com/icubs-plc.

Payment due on the evening of the game. Carpooling is encouraged!



**PRAIRIE FEST PARADE ENTRY
PLANNING MEETING**

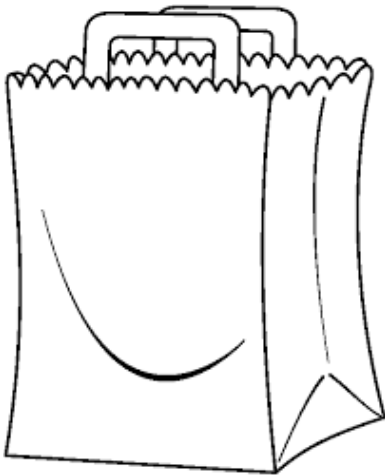
**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29TH @
6:30 p.m.**

If there is enough interest, we would like to plan an entry in this year's Prairie Fest parade on Saturday, August 27th. We guarantee it will not involve building a big float, just something to share information about Palestine to our community. Please join us and bring your ideas!

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 and click on the bright red ONLINE GIVING tab on the right located above our "Reaching out in Christian love to all" statement.
4. Text **GIVE** to 515-207-6435.
Thank you. Continue to pray and know God is with us.



The food pantry currently needs the following if you are willing to donate:

- Saltine crackers
- Juice (small grape, tomato, apple)
- Condiments (small ketchup, mustard, relish, mayo)
- Disposable razors
- Disinfecting wipes (Clorox, Lysol, etc.)

There is a blue rubber maid in the north fellowship hall for a collection bin. Thank you!

On Vacation

Lesia will be on vacation
Wednesday, June 29th –
Saturday, July 9th.

No weekly email
announcements July 6th.



Please submit your two favorite
hymns in fellowship hall for July
10th service! DEADLINE is Monday,
June 27th!

Whatever hymns we don't get to
we can sing throughout summer!
Sign up in fellowship hall or email
Pastor Klimpel @
ericklimpel@gmail.com

HOMEMADE ICE CREAM

Stop by Nelson Park in Slater on Monday, July 4th from
11 a.m. – 2 p.m. for homemade Ice Cream being sold by
Sheldahl and Slater UMC's.

Welcome to Worship! We're glad you're here (physically or virtually), guests and members alike, and pray that you will find in our worship an opportunity to praise God and hear God's Word.

A Grave Misunderstanding (*based on Luke 9*)

When was the last time you were misunderstood? Was it a social media post taken in a way you didn't intend? A conversation with a relative that turned unintentionally tense? Maybe it was when you were giving directions to your children and they ended up lost or doing the wrong thing.

It's frustrating to be misunderstood, especially by those you love. In today's gospel reading Jesus is misunderstood by just about everyone. We find him today setting his "face to go to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51), an ominous phrase intended to give the hearers of this text a sense of the foreboding future: confrontation, crucifixion, and the grave.

The Samaritans (outcasts in the eyes of the Judeans) didn't understand his singular mindset. Neither do the disciples, who think he may want vengeance when truly he is seeking purposeful peace. His followers want to clear up tasks and other duties before walking the road he is walking. What none of them understand is that where Jesus is going and what he is about to do will require his full attention, his full body, his full heart. He cannot be stopped, he has no heart for retribution, and he has no time for other tasks; salvation is at hand.

It's a grave misunderstanding.

On this final Sunday in June we find Jesus making clear that God's gracious work will take undivided attention and deserves ours, because the love of God seen through Christ will redeem our whole selves: the parts of our being that feel like outcasts, the parts of our hearts that desire vengeance over forgiveness, and the distracted parts of our heads that just don't seem to understand God's mission.

God's work in Jesus is comprehensive. We often have a hard time understanding this because our world is fragmented, distracted, and distracting in so many ways. But if there's any misunderstanding today, the singular focus of Jesus provides clarity.