





Reaching out in Christian love to all!

1375 Highway 210 PO Box 189 Huxley, IA 50124

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THE PALESTINE PRESS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER March 2024



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#### **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.



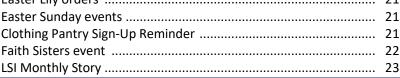
Pastor Eric will be doing visitation for members who would like to have one. Please contact Pastor Eric if you would like to have a visit. You do not have to wait for him to call.

Call 515-597-2620 or email ericklimpel@gmail.com

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

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Palestine will accept your offering!

- 1. **Bring** to worship service with you and place in offering plates.
- Mail check to: Palestine Lutheran Church P.O. Box 189 Huxley, IA 50124

#### Give online through Easy Tithe. Go to our website <u>www.plchuxley.com</u> 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.

# Page(s)



Another Jaunt through the Wilderness of Lent ------------ With Jesus & Pastor Eric

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came and said to him, ... Matthew 4:1-3

#### <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Mark 1:13

The ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus once said, "No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and he's not the same man." What a wonderful quote to carry in your hip pocket. I think about this quote when I read the "wilderness account" in Matthew, Luke, and Mark just before Jesus begins his public ministry. You have probably heard me say that "the wilderness" is God's testing (proving) ground for those with whom God has found favor. Jesus spends 40 days in the wilderness where it is dangerous, lonely, and filled with uncertainty. He fasts and let's just say he will either rely on "self," or on God to make it through. Now the scriptures refer to the number 40 to serve as code for an extended period in test mode. I am not so sure that Jesus ever really leaves the wilderness. I believe that the wilderness can be wherever we enter uncertainty and the unfamiliar whether a place, or a condition, or a social circle. And we never know when the tempter will enter the picture, or if temptation ever truly leaves at all?

In Matthew's gospel account, the devil shows up at the end of the 40 days when Jesus seems at his weakest and yet the end is in sight. Mark's account reads with little detail and the devil tempted him the entire time wearing him down. What does Jesus do? How does Jesus respond? Will Jesus, the Son whom God loves and approves of, obey his Father? How will they work out this "Father-Son" relationship?

Lent is a season of wilderness reflection for us beloved children of God. We get an opportunity to consider our forays into the wilderness ways with God and work out our part in this spiritual family dynamic. The rhythms of Lent, year after year, show us that the "wilderness streams" are different and in many ways, we are different! So, what stays constant? God's love and approval! God's presence at each step and God's help! The adventure continues because we grow into a deeper relationship with God along the way and we become more in tune with our purpose for being.

Now, let's take this wonderful quote from Heraclitus and apply it to Lent worship. No matter how familiar the liturgy, music or service order may be, Lent worship is never the same experience, and you are never the same person entering into it week after week. What a wonderful opportunity to embrace what is changing in you as you walk (journey) with God. Pay attention for the tempter lurks but praise God that Jesus remains with you – speaking, leading, carrying, refining, and loving all the way! **AMEN!** 



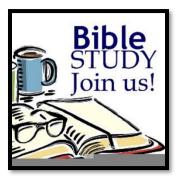
# **GET INVOLVED**

#### Men's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 7:00 a.m. in the council room.

#### ZOOM Bible Study

Tuesdays from 7:00pm – 8:00pm during Lent on Zoom - <u>Not a Tame</u> Lion: A Lent Course Based on the Writing of C.S. Lewis - An original and



engaging Lent resource from the highly popular author, Hilary Brand. A five-week Lent course based around three films, Prince Caspian, The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe and Shadowlands. The course aims to bring ideas from Lewis's writing to a wider contemporary audience. In doing so it looks at issues of suffering, God's absence, the gift of the present moment, as well as a few ideas less well explored in present day Christianity: heaven, judgement, and the force of evil. Each film clip is related to one of the sayings of Jesus as found in the gospels, and there is introductory material to be read before each session, as well as a wide range of discussion starters and questions. Including full notes for facilitators, this offers an engaging and original resource for Lent. *Purchase of a book is required on-line*. If you need help securing material *if needed*, then please contact <u>ericklimpel@gmail.com</u>.

#### Council Retreat

Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. @ Iowa State Alumni Center (includes March Council Meeting).

#### Youth Confirmation Ministry

Wednesdays from 6:30 pm to 7:00 p.m. March 6<sup>th</sup> and March 20<sup>th</sup> in the Conference Room @ Palestine Lutheran Church – For youth in 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Classes on the Small Catechism with the goal of confirmation at the end of a two-year ministry of service, discussion and fun. Questions? Contact Pastor Eric Klimpel @ <u>ericklimpel@gmail.com</u>

#### R.O.C.K. Group

For high school students. The R.O.C.K. Group typically meets on the first Wednesday of every month from 6:30 - 8 p.m. However, in March they will meet on March  $20^{th}$  from 5-7 to work at the Clothing Pantry in Huxley, then attend mid-week Lenten worship service.

#### New Member Orientation Meetings

**March 17**<sup>th</sup> after worship in the south conference room. Anyone who would like to inquire about Palestine Lutheran Church and find some insights into its history, people and ministry are welcome. For prospective members, new members and yes, even veteran members! All are welcome! Let the church office know if you are interested so that we can prepare materials (@ palestinelutheran@gmail.com )

#### 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)

#### Theology on Tap

Gathering for adults who want to fellowship, relax and solve the world's problems together while creating some potential new ones. We will take time to fellowship around God's Word and grow together as a community.

Join us for the next one March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. at Fenceline Beer Lab in Huxley, 107 S Main Ave, Huxley, IA 50124 (*No reservations needed, just show up!* <sup>(2)</sup>)

# LENT MID-WEEK & FAMILY HOME DEVOTIONAL

# OFFERING 2024

#### Collected over 40-Days for Palm Sunday (March 24)



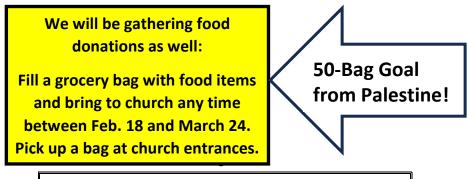
#### Huxley & Kelley "Cupboard" Food Pantry

The overall need has increased since the pandemic months with up to 70 households per month, and more minors than workingage adults. Over the past year, the pantry served 2400 people.

The Huxley pantry is open each Wednesday from 6-7pm and Thursday from 10-11am available to residents of Huxley and Kelley. The pantry is located at 503 E. 1st Street (behind the south Casey's). The pantry offers food, as well as personal care items, paper products and cleaning supplies (not covered by SNAP benefits). Food and a

voucher are provided once a month. The voucher is good at Huxley's Fareway and Slater's Town and Country grocery store.

Interested individuals can use the service once per month and must provide an I.D. with proof of current address. Donations are welcome and can be made to the Fjeldberg church. For further information call 515-597-2831.



Please designate "Food Pantry" on your offering.

# Holy Week and Special Offering





Middle East Crisis, Hurricane Response, U.S. Flooding, Drought, U.S. Tornadoes, Easter European Crisis, Earthquake in Turkey, South Sudan Relief, Protecting Migrant Minors, U.S. Wildfires, U.S. Severe Storms



Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing and renewal to those whose lives have been disrupted by disasters, in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

> Please designate "Easter Special" on your offering to go towards Lutheran Disaster Response

# Daily Faith Practices

Daily discipleship themes can be used for Bible study. They are available on the ELCA website <u>www.elca.org</u>  $\rightarrow$ Resources $\rightarrow$  Downloadable Resources $\rightarrow$  Bible studies

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

**Focus:** What this week is worth investing your best energy?

Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." John 2:19 (NRSV) Read John 2:13-22

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

**Focus:** What does it mean to walk in the light of Christ?

But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God. John 3:21 (NRSV) Read John 3:14-21

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

**Focus:** What does it mean to follow in the footsteps of Jesus?

"Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor." John 12:26 (NRSV) Read John 12:20-33

Palm Sunday

**Focus:** What does it mean to stand in the shadow of the cross?

"Then they led him (Jesus) out to crucify him." Mark 15:20 (NRSV)

EasterFocus: What does the resurrection ofJesus mean for those who follow as disciples?"He (Jesus) has been raised; he is not here."Mark 16:6b (NRSV)Read Mark 16:1-8



- 1 Kaedence DeVries Julianne Schaudt Jeannie Williams
- 2 DeAnne Jolly
- 4 Benjamin Ewing
- 5 Dave Mueller
- 7 Mark Doty Andrew Larson Aiden Lewis
- 10 Brad Lewis
- 11 Lucas Hartsook
- 12 Natalie Kruse
- 13 Madeline Sheldahl
- 16 Reese Wuebker
- 17 Rebecca Snider
- 18 Ty Siepker
- 19 Hannah Saltzman Addy Siepker
- 20 Brittany Young
- 21 Blake Edwards Patti Rowedder
- 22 Kevin Kopaska Chris Nelson Mike Rasmussen
- 23 Doreen Blackmer
- 24 Nic Schonhorst
- 25 Jessica Green Carlee Nobiling
- 28 Erika Williams
- 29 Brent Emerson Helen Kepler (80<sup>th</sup>) Rick Sheldahl Mae Wilson

- Anniversary Blessings
- 5<sup>th</sup> David Ewing & Monica Morse
- 12th Nikolas & Jenna Pilcher
- 25<sup>th</sup> Olivia & Sam Duffy

If there is a record of error or omission, please let us know at *palestinelutheran@gmail.com* or 515-597-2624.



Let's shower the following members with birthday cards:

**March 29<sup>th</sup> Helen Kepler** See mailed newsletter for address

- 30 Norma McBride
- 31 Dane Tatarniuk



ALTAR GUILD: Melanie Fausch & Teri Klimpel COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: March 3<sup>rd</sup>: Bruce Hartman; Tim Wilson March 17<sup>th</sup>: Jean Saveraid March 28<sup>th</sup>: Lyle Martin Easter Festival: Leonard and Sue Larson

**OFFERING COUNTERS:** Cindi Thomas & Holly Twedt

Greeters\*, \*\* March 3<sup>rd</sup>: Ben & Candi Engler; Greg & Christa Hartsook March 10<sup>th</sup>: David and Vallery Eisenmann; Bruce & Angie Hartman March 17<sup>th</sup>: Cynthia Johnson; Leonard & Sue Larson March 24<sup>th</sup>: Scott & Alyssa Johnson; Jason & Melinda Kam

March 31<sup>st</sup>: Brent & Missy Larson; Rich & Chris Nelson \*Greeters scheduled are asked to serve coffee/juice/water during fellowship

\*\*All greeters for the month are asked to bring two dozen treats to share on the  $2^{nd}$  Sunday of the month.

	APRIL 2024								
SUNDWY	MONDWY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY			
	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	29	30							

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
<b>3</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion Music with Nels 10:45 a.m. First Communion class	4	<b>5</b> 10 a.m. Area Pastor's Study 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study
<b>10</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship No children's church or music with Nels Cookie Sunday	11	<b>12</b> 10 a.m. Area Pastor's Study 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study
<b>17</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent No choir 9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion No children's church or music with Nels New member orientation 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Theology on Tap 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. 4H	18	<b>19</b> 10 a.m. Area Pastor's Study 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study
<b>24</b> <i>Passion/Palm Sunday</i> 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship Music with Nels 10:45 a.m. First Communion class	<b>25</b> April Newsletter deadline	<b>26</b> 10 a.m. Area Pastor's Study 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study
<b>31 Creatives</b> 7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service; Holy Communion Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt 9:30 a.m. Festival Worship; Holy Communion	APRIL 1	<b>2</b> 10 a.m. Area Pastor's Study 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study

#### March 2024

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY			
<b>6</b> 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Quilters 6:00 p.m. Light dinner 6:30 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Midweek Lenten service	<b>7</b> 10 – 3 Spirituality of Fundraising (Pastor)	8	9			
<b>13</b> 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Quilters 6:00 p.m. Light dinner 7:00 p.m. Midweek Lenten service	14	<b>15</b> Easter Lily Order Deadline	16			
<b>20</b> 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:30 p.m. Prayer Support Group 1:00 p.m. Quilters 2:00 p.m. North Polk Ministerial Assoc. Mtg (Pastor) 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. R.O.C.K. to work at the Clothing Pantry then attend worship together 6:00 p.m. Light dinner 6:30 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Midweek Lenten service	<b>21</b> 10:00 a.m. Last Renewal Event (Pastor) 12:30 p.m. Ballard Ministerial Assoc. Mtg (Pastor)	22	23 1-4 p.m. Faith Sisters Trash 2 Treasure @ Dorcas Hall – RSVP required			
<b>27</b> 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Green Hills Devotions (Pastor) 1:00 p.m. Quilters <i>No confirmation</i> 7:00 p.m. Gethsemane Prayer Service	<b>28</b> 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday; Holy Communion	<b>29</b> 2:00 p.m. <i>Passion of the</i> <i>Christ</i> Movie 5:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross 7:00 p.m. Good Friday	<b>30</b> Easter Vigil			
<b>3</b> 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	4	5	6			
Mark your calendars for VBS June 16-20 from 6-8 p.m. @ Fjeldberg in Huxley with light meal at 5:30 p.m. "Start the Party"						

Annual Meeting Minutes were in the weekly emailed announcements. You can also request a hard copy from Lesa.





Minutes are only in the mailed newsletters now.

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## Remember in Prayer

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

Adrianne Brown, Ralph Dovre, Dolores Hauge, Brady Hillebrand, Alice Kahler, Vivian Lundgren, Judy McKinney, Deb Ness, Larry Pote, Havanna Roelfs, Jean Sandquist, Tim Shoemaker, Omar Tesdell, Ramsey Tesdell

Family and Friends of: Mary Lou Hoover, Roy Paradise, Anita Brendeland, Linda Fausch, Alvina Larson, Warren Johnson, Bev Echtenkamp, Merlin Lyon, Mindy Kahler, Kathy Saveraid, Arleta Wilson, Gary Davis, Shirley Saveraid, Clara Eisenmann, Dan Eisenmann, Dena Bloodsworth, Charles Bowers, Sarah Piper, Helen Miller, Diane Larson, Jacob Leedom, Dan Bushaw, Elaine Paradise, Charlize Flick, Lee Briggs



# **PROJECT** √

Our balcony pews have recently been stained to match our woodwork! Take a look if you haven't been upstairs recently!





Palestine's second annual fish fry was held on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and was a great success! We served about 300 people and raised over \$2,200 for Palestine's youth programs.

Thank you to everyone that helped prepare, cook, serve, clean up or eat and donate!

Special thanks to Mark and Jen Pote for sponsoring and organizing this in memory of Spencer Pote.



## MEET OUR NEW COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Dr. David Eisenmann and his wife Vallery live outside Slater where they enjoy country living with their dog Sadie. In addition to Vallery's garden, they also raise meat sheep. David is employed at Iowa State University as an Associate Teaching Professor in the Materials Science and Engineering Department, and Vallery as a Field

Training Consultant for American National Insurance. They have two daughters (Kelby and Sidney) and four grandchildren. Kelby and her husband and their three children farm in northwest Missouri, and Sidney and her husband and their daughter work and farm in southern Iowa. What David and Vallery enjoy most about Palestine is the willingness of the congregation to step forward whenever there is a need, fiscally or just within the needs of the church community.



# NEW ITEMS TO CHECK OUT!

- The Chosen Season one DVD
- A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23 by W. Phillip Keller "As a shepherd Phillip Keller shares his insights into the life and character of sheep-and of the Good Shepherd who loves and cares for them."
- Who Are You Following? by Sadie Robertson Huff This book is about pursuing Jesus in a social media obsessed world.
- Wake Up With Purpose! What I've Learned in My first Hundred Years by Sister Jean with Seth Davis "Part memoir and part spiritual guide, Wake Up with Purpose! captures the humor, wisdom, and common sense that have made Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt an icon of faith and joy."



# **Mark Pote**



Thanks to everyone that participated either by bringing chili to share or by taste testing!

The R.O.C.K. Group sent \$500 worth of goods to Rice and Beans Ministry from the "voting"! RABMIN has a wish list of filling a shipping container to send to Costa Rica including supplies for their new kitchen and school supplies to donate to the kids.

R.O.C.K. purchased:

- 10 soccer balls
- 5-piece cast iron kitchen set
- Stainless steel mixing bowl
- 20 calculators
- 72 colored pencils
- 800 pencil sharpeners
- Case of 48 crayon packs
- 150 pencils





K.I.C.K. THANKS YOU for donating soups and money to their "Souper Bowl of Caring"







### **Easter Lilies for Easter Worship**

Blumsters will be offering Easter lilies at a cost of \$20 (tax included). The plants will be delivered to church for Easter Sunday worship.

You may sign up for plants by calling Blumsters 515-597-2200 or Tracy Sheldahl's cell phone 515-450-1961. Please let them know (at the time you order) if you are placing the plant in memory of or in honor of someone.

The deadline to order is Friday, March 15!

# JOIN US EASTER MORNING: March 31, 2024

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service with Holy Communion led by R.O.C.K.
Breakfast provided by R.O.C.K. and K.I.C.K.
9 ish Easter Egg Hunt courtesy of Christian Education Committee

9:30 a.m. Festival Worship Service with Holy Communion



# **Ballard Clothing Pantry**

Easter

Sunda

March is Palestine's month to staff the Clothing Pantry.

Open: Wednesdays 5-7 p.m., Saturdays 10-noon, Sundays 1-3 p.m.

Please consider this important opportunity

to serve our community. See Deb Moore for more information. (515-460-1037). The sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall. Please consider staffing <u>at least one</u> shift.





Presented by Faith Sisters (formerly Spiritual Spa)

#### SPEAKERS

Cathy Klobnak- From the Heart Ministries Brandy Young- Wings of Refuge (Survivor made items for sale too!) Info available about O.U.R. (Operation Underground Railroad )

# Dorcas Hall—Cambridge Free to all Women!

Meal provided

Retail Therapy( bring gently used clothing and accessories to exchange)

**Games and Crafts** 

Please RSVP to 515-249-5407 (call or text)

Limited seating, please call soon!!!



## March 2024 LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

#### March is National Professional Social Work Month

At LSI, we believe every lowan deserves the independence they need to thrive. LSI's Host Homes is an innovative way LSI is serving adults with disabilities. Through this program, an individual moves from Supported Community Living into a private family home with a carefully selected mentor. This program is built entirely around an individual's goals and interests, and LSI's extensive matching process ensures the mentor and mentee are a great fit.

Take a moment to read the following story from a Host Homes mentee: "My journey with LSI's Host Homes started in early 2023. I've known my mentor for a few years while he provided hourly services to me. We learned about Host Homes and thought it would be a good fit for us. I moved into my mentor's home where he helps me maintain a daily routine with schoolwork, household tasks, daily living skills, improving independence, and more.

I attend a college nearby and go to classes a few days a week. I am able to navigate the local bus system to access my community to attend classes and visit friends. My mentor is always available to transport me into the community as needed.

This summer, I went on a trip across the country with one of my classes. While on this trip, I was able to maintain my independence with limited support, but I knew my mentor would be available by phone to assist me with my coping skills and problem solving. This trip was a big success for me knowing I had support only a phone call away.

I like LSI's Host Homes Program because my mentor supports me in the way I want to be supported, assists me with some daily tasks I struggle with, and understands me."

If you are interested in becoming a Host Homes mentor and helping a fellow lowan achieve independence, please visit LSIowa.org/HostHomes for more information.

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 and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Palestine Lutheran Church 1375 HWY 210 P.O. BOX 189 Huxley, IA 50124-8110 Address service requested