

Reaching out in Christian love to all!

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**THE PALESTINE PRESS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
December 2021**



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515-597-2620
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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 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

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
Tithes & Offerings	3
Pastor's Monthly Report	4-5
Study & Prayer Opportunities	6-7
Daily Faith Practices	8
Advent & Christmas Services	9
Advent Information & Special Offerings	10-12
Birthdays & Anniversaries	13
Calendar of Events	14-15
Council Minutes	16-17
Kumla Thank You	18
Winter Weather Policy	18
Senior Tea & Christmas Program	19
Library News	20-22
Bridal Shower Invitation	22
R.O.C.K. Christmas Bake Sale	23
Christmas Caroling	23
College Scholarships	24
Prayer List for November	24
Christmas Card List	25
Lutheran Services of Iowa Bulletin/Newsletter	26-27

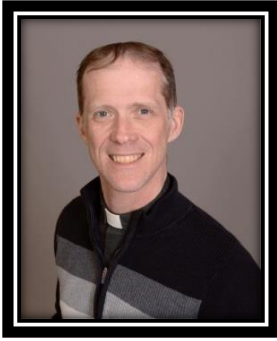
Tithes & Offering

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.**
4. Text **GIVE** to 515-207-6435.

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.

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



Remembering God's Faithful
Abundance----- with Pastor Eric

***For every wild animal of the forest is
mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.
Psalm 50:10***

When I was working for a hurricane inter-faith recovery group, I remember our faithful director referring to this simple verse in psalm 50. She would begin every budget meeting with this verse written on the whiteboard. We had 60-70 homes destroyed and rice crops devastated by Hurricane Claudette along the Gulf Coast of Texas. Right after the storm hit, we received emergency aid from all over the country – FEMA came in right away along with Lutheran Disaster Relief and various church groups from everywhere. However, once the next storm hit on the east coast and a few weeks went by, these agencies and aide dried up and was channeled to other disaster sites. It was up to us local people on the recovery board to find the money, secure the labor and help meet the long-term needs of hundreds of families. I felt overwhelmed and abandoned with so much left to do to bring recovery to the area.

The Director for recovery reminded us that God had resources galore like cattle on a thousand hills just waiting to be given to help all of us in this season of apparent scarcity. She was right! God provided all that was needed to bring healing to the victims of Hurricane Claudette – and we had thirty thousand dollars left over to share with other disaster agencies like ours!

At Christmas time, we remember that Jesus came into the world in extreme poverty, born in a stable, to an unwed mother and

surrounded by smelly shepherds with the king out to get him. From the time that the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that God found favor with her to their flight into Egypt as refugees, the holy family had to believe that God had everything in hand.

You might feel abandoned, overwhelmed, and distressed right now. The economy is shaky, and prices are high, gifts are subject to the supply chain situation and travel raises another headache around covid and staffing shortages. Now is the time to remember the simple mantra of psalm 50, God has cattle on a thousand hills. Take a breath, say a prayer, and look around at ways in which God is providing what is needed right now.

Maybe you can think about it this way. We tend to look at the Mississippi River as an awesome source of water for travel, drinking and irrigation which in turn flows into the mighty Gulf of Mexico, which in turn connects to the Atlantic Ocean. We should remember that the Mississippi is fed with water from thousands of little streams and rivers that quietly flow and give their waters into the mighty river. There are streams of giving that feed our lives every day – not just money but other ways that feed our needs for life and growth. God has streams that make glad the city of God and water the trees that bear fruit for life everlasting from every direction.

⁹You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it. ¹⁰You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth. Psalm 65: 9-10



GET INVOLVED

Dawn Dialog with Jesus

Sundays at 8:00 a.m. via ZOOM. Reflection and Prayer on Gospel text for the day “Where two or three are gathered in my name, then I am there among them.” (Matthew 18:20). An invitation is in the weekly email announcements. Daily Discipleship will be attached in the Wednesday email announcements for the following Sunday.

Men’s Bible Study

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

Power of Prayer

Wednesdays at noon via ZOOM.

An invitation is 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.

ZOOM Bible Study

Thursdays @ 6:30 pm on ZOOM. We will use the **Study Guide** version of ***The Story – 31 Sessions***. With the Study Guide is an expectation of reading, **The Story** book itself. We will do the **Group Time** portion in class together. Please purchase the guide and book yourself. Pastor believes it is on Kindle as well. If you need help purchasing these books, then please contact ericklimpel@gmail.com

Griefshare Support Group Fall Session

Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room. A support group for those who are wrestling with loss and grief which is Christian affirming and genuine. We will use a 13-week “drop in” curriculum to help guide our reflections together. Sign up on the Griefshare website @ www.griefshare.org for the Huxley site, or email Pastor Eric @ ericklimpel@gmail.com.

New Member Orientation Meetings

Every 2nd and 4th Sunday 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)

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. You are encouraged to bring a beverage and a snack to share with the group.



Join us for the next one in January!



Daily Faith Practices

Daily discipleship themes can be used for Bible study. They are available on the ELCA website www.elca.org
→Resources→ Downloadable Resources→ Bible studies

Advent Week 2

Focus: What are you preparing for this Advent season?

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”

Luke 3:4 (NRSV)

Read Luke 3:1-6

Advent Week 3

Focus: What does it mean to bear fruit during this Advent season?

“Bear fruits worthy of repentance.” Luke 3:8 (NRSV)

Read Luke 3:7-18

Advent Week 4

Focus: What of Christ brings joy to your life?

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.” Luke 1:46 (NRSV)

Read Luke 1:39-55

First Sunday of Christmas

Focus: How might you increase in wisdom during the coming year?

“And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.” Luke 2:52 (NRSV)

Read Luke 2:41-52

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT PALESTINE

Midweek Advent Services: “*HOLY Darkness*” Advent Worship Series

- Wednesday, December 1st @ 7:30 p.m.
Darkness is Holy
- Wednesday, December 8th @ 7:30 p.m.
Darkness is Beautiful
- Wednesday, December 15th @ 7:30 p.m.
Darkness Holds Promise
- Wednesday, December 22nd @ 7:30 p.m.
Darkness Holds God

Christmas Eve:

Nativity of Our Lord; Holy Communion
3:00 p.m. *live streamed*
7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day:

Nativity of Our Lord; Holy Communion
9:30 a.m. @ Nazareth Lutheran Church in Cambridge with
breakfast to follow (*you are encouraged to bring something
to share*)

New Dawn Worship:

December 26th @ 9:30 a.m. Thanksgiving for Baptism and
New Year's Blessing Christmas *Lessons and Carols 2021*

Epiphany Celebration:

Sunday, January 2nd @ 9:30 am.

**Advent Special Offerings support the purchase of a herd of
Goats from the ELCA World Hunger Good Gifts Ministry
\$300 Goal. Thank you!**



The Advent season is a time of getting ready to enter into the mystery of Christmas. This mystery is so great that it takes four weeks to get ready to enter. These treasured weeks are reserved for preparing us to grow closer to Christ through the glory of Christmas.

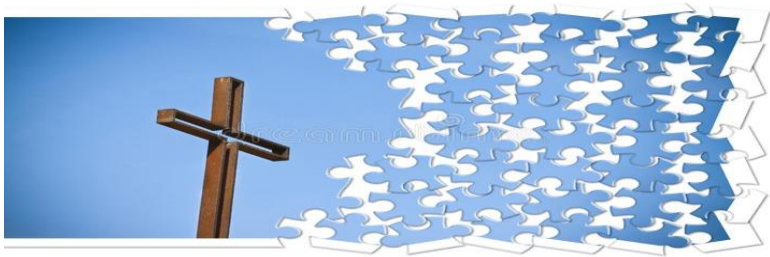
In a sense, Advent allows us an opportunity to become modern day innkeepers. We choose to make room for the Holy Family and journey with them again as they prepare for the arrival of Christ the King.

Let us use these four weeks of Advent wisely so that our hearts and minds will be worthily prepared to joyfully celebrate the birth of our Lord.

Pastor Eric has many resources available to us to prepare for Jesus:

- Advent Calendars, Devotion booklets, Family Devotions and Activities booklets, and the Holiday Resource Guide are all available in front of the sanctuary entrance in fellowship hall.
- **Advent Wreath kits will be available November 28th.**
Donation for materials is appreciated.

Special Offering Opportunity for Advent and Christmas Season 2021



Jigsaw Puzzle Network – The Pelia Puzzlers Ministry

(Pelia is Hebrew for “miracle of God”)

We are collecting puzzles for our area nursing homes, assisted living facilities and senior citizen groups. Puzzles are shown to increase brain activity, promote concentration and help engage people in tasks that keep them mentally healthy.

We are collecting puzzles to begin a network for providing, exchanging, and promoting community, and mental health for the seniors in our community and beyond.

The goal is to make puzzles available to area groups and help in the exchange of them between homes, and assisted living residents.

Place puzzles in the bins, or on the table in the North Hall.

Criteria: New or gently used puzzles, all pieces present, pictures of farming scenes or engaging scenes, 500 pieces or less, each puzzle come with a picture of the final product.

Questions Contact: ericklimpel@gmail.com

Advent Special Offerings support the purchase of a herd of Goats from the ELCA World Hunger Good Gifts Ministry (\$300 Goal)



Why Goats?

Limited space to graze? Dry land? Goats don't mind. Goats can go where other animals can't. Fresh milk from a goat provides daily nutrition for children and their families. Plus, goats are incredibly quick to reproduce, providing the opportunity for families to pass the gift on to others in their community!

A Family takes a Jar – Contributes money to it through Advent and turns it in by Sunday, December 19th. Upon the jar's return, each family is eligible for a drawing to receive a stuffed goat for their nativity.



- 2 Jill Rahner
- 4 Jody Calvert
Jacey Johnson
- 5 Austin Klimpel
Travis Young
- 11 Laurie Hill
Christy Mueller
- 12 Lora Young
- 15 Owen Williams
- 18 Grant Klingbeil
Andrew Polich
- 19 Spencer Wise
- 20 Brian Harleen
- 21 Louise Larson
- 22 Jax Richter
- 24 Whitney Larson
- 25 Tim Wilson
- 27 Marvin Sorensen (88th)

- 28 Cody Fausch
Ben Larson
Rafe Madson
- 29 Max Clark
Harold Rittgers (92nd)
Lucas Williams
- 31 Penn Hill



- 5 Bill & Sandy Harleen (40th)
- 19 Scott & Alyssa Johnson
Mike & Cindi Thomas
Cheryl & Mike Rasmussen
- 27 Donna & Mike Lisowski (35th)

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



ALTAR GUILD: Melanie Fausch
Nancy Fausch

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

Dec. 5th Tracy Rhoads; Kim Van Pelt

Dec. 19th Donna Millang

Dec. 24th

3 p.m. David & Vallery Eisenmann

7 p.m. Bill & Sandy Harleen

OFFERING COUNTERS:

Jeannie Williams; Doreen Blackmer

GREETERS:

Dec. 5th Doug & Lori Schonhorst;
Tim & Julie Huxford

Dec. 12th Cynthia Johnson;
Bruce & Angie Hartman;

Dec. 19th Matt & Michelle Siepker;
Laura Kepler

Dec. 26th Tim & Holly Wise;
Chris & Amanda Richter

*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 2nd Sunday of the month.

JANUARY 2022

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
					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
31						

www.free-printable-calendar.com

SUNDAY	MONDAY
28 8 a.m. Dawn Dialog via Zoom 8:30 a.m. Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship; 1 st Sunday of Advent <i>Advent Wreath Kits available</i>	29
5 8 a.m. Dawn Dialog via Zoom 8:30 a.m. Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion; 2 nd Sunday of Advent 11:00 a.m. Sr. Tea	6
12 8 a.m. Dawn Dialog via Zoom 8:30 a.m. Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship; 3 rd Sunday of Advent Christmas program rehearsal until 12 or 12:30 4:30 p.m. Christmas program	13
19 8 a.m. Dawn Dialog via Zoom 8:30 a.m. Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion; 4 th Sunday of Advent 3:00 p.m. Bridal Shower for Olivia Thomas	20
26 8 a.m. Dawn Dialog via Zoom 9:30 a.m. Worship; First Sunday of Christmas; Christmas Lessons & Carols	27

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURS.	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	1 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:00 p.m. ZOOM Palestine Prayer Time 1:00 p.m. Quilters 5:30 – 7:30 KICK Rehearsal 6:00 – 8:00 ROCK meets 6:30 – 7:30 Confirmation 7:30 p.m. Midweek Service	2 6:30 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study	3	4
7 7 p.m. Blue Christmas	8 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:00 p.m. ZOOM Palestine Prayer Time 1:00 p.m. Quilters 5:30 -7:30 KICK Rehearsal 6:30 – 7:30 Confirmation 7:30 p.m. Midweek Service	9 6:30 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study	10	11 9 a.m. – noon ROCK Cookie Extravaganza
14	15 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:00 p.m. ZOOM Palestine Prayer Time 12:30 p.m. Prayer Group 1:00 p.m. Quilters 6:15 p.m. Christmas caroling 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Confirmation 7:30 p.m. Midweek Service	16 6:30 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study	17	18
21	22 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:00 p.m. ZOOM Palestine Prayer Time 7:30 p.m. Midweek Service	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 3 p.m. Holy Communion; live streamed 7 p.m. Holy Communion	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 9:30 a.m. Worship @ Nazareth Lutheran in Cambridge
28	29 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:00 p.m. ZOOM Palestine Prayer Time	30	1	2



COUNCIL MINUTES

These minutes have not yet been approved.

Agenda – Palestine Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Sunday, November 7, 2021 @ 8 AM

Kristin Shelton, Pastor Eric, Diedre Qual, Chris Richter, Jean Saveraid, Brad Lewis, David Eisenmann, Candi Engler, Brent Emerson, Tim Wilson were in attendance.

A quorum was established.

Devotions: Brad Lewis “Goals”

Read Vision and Mission Statements.

Goals and Reflections: Excitement about the Christmas program. Thankful for Donna stepping up for funeral of Harriet Sheldahl. Reclaiming Wednesdays for church activities. Really good Confirmation service and loved the faith statements.

Minutes of the previous meeting: Chris Richter motioned to approve the minutes. Candi Engler seconded. All approved unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report: Diedre.

General Fund: \$-9,953.42

Total PLC Checking: \$13,377.61

Parsonage: \$14,568.76

Kristin Shelton motioned to approve the Treasurer’s report. David Eisenmann seconded. All approved unanimously.

Finance Committee to speak to the congregation about giving.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Klimpel.

Refer to Pastor's report. Pastor read through his report.

New business:

1. Copyright & Licensure – Need to revisit the discussion with updated costs.
2. Implementation of a process to turn receipts into the Finance Committee for approval.
3. Easy Tithe is changing to Payment Brands – Kristin will check with bank to see if there are ACH restrictions that impact us. We will need to send an announcement to ensure members know that it is changing and they will not need to do anything on their end. We also need to get our church number so that we can have a texting option. We should also create a live link for the electronic bulletin and for the weekly email announcements.

Unfinished business:

1. The Nominations Committee
2. Sign Up has been created for Technology Help for Brent (Sign Up Genius)
3. Committee chair or representative will be invited to Church Council in upcoming year (9 committees – we will invite 1 per month except in June, July, December). They can give updates, celebrations, needs, &/or struggles.

Adjourn with the Lord's Prayer: David Eisenmann motioned, Chris Richter seconded. All were unanimous in their vote.

Next Meeting: December 12, 2021 @ 8 a.m.

Treat:

Devotions:



Tusen Takk!

Thank you to everyone that provided desserts, helped in the kitchen, served, and ordered KUMLA!

K.I.C.K. servers



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) and the church facebook page (Palestine Lutheran Church). **Sunday morning worship service cancellation will be made no later than 8:30 a.m.**



*Senior Tea
Sunday,
December 5th
@ 11 a.m.*



Christmas Program Sunday, December 12th

**with special music beginning at
4:30 p.m.**

*Free-will offering meal to follow the
program.*

Rehearsals remaining:

- Sunday, Nov. 28th 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 1st 5:30 – 6:00 p.m. dinner
6:00 – 7:30 p.m. practice
- Sunday, Dec. 5th 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 8th 5:30 – 6:00 p.m. dinner
6:00 – 7:30 p.m. practice
- Sunday, Dec. 12th final practice after worship
service until noon or 12:30
(preschool – 6th grades)
4:30 p.m. special music followed by
program



All program participants are asked to bring one dozen cookies or treats for the meal (please mark if there is peanut butter).



Palestine Lutheran Church has new books from the Book Lover's Bash!

They will be displayed for a while, and then you can find them in the following sections:

Orange: Devotional/ Inspirational:

A Praying Life by Paul E. Miller

"Connecting with God in a distracting World."

Blue: Biography:

To See As One Who Is Dying by Mary Comeaux

"Mary Comeaux was a Catholic campus minister at the University of Houston. She died of cancer when she was 36 years old. Mary kept this journal of her transition, electing to avoid chemotherapy and be attentive to the process, seeking to feel and understand God's presence."

Luther, Biography of a Reformer by Frederick Nohl

Red: Reference/Theology:

Paul, the Spirit, and the People of God by Gordon D. Fee

"This Pentecostal scholar redefined the terms of the discussion about the Holy Spirit in a way that transcends today's paradigm of 'charismatic' or 'non-charismatic' orientation. His words are a strong reminder of what God, through his Holy Spirit, intends the church to be...His work is an attempt to point us back to the Bible and reinvigorate our own vision of how the Spirit mobilizes the community

of believers in the local church.” Comments by Wendy Murray Zoba, Associate Editor of *Christianity Today*

The Case for Christmas by Lee Strobel

“A journalist investigates the identity of the child in the manger. Consulting experts on the Bible, archaeology, and messianic prophecy, Lee Strobel searches out the true identity of the child in the manger.”

Green: Self Help/Social Issues:

Family Ties that Bind by Dr. Ronald W. Richardson

“A Self-help guide to change through Family of Origin therapy. This easy-to-read, practical book explains how families function and what you can do to change the way you act in your family and with other people. Exercises show how to apply the principles to your own situation and develop a more positive approach to all aspects of your life.”

Approval Addiction by Joyce Meyer

“Overcoming your need to please everyone.”

His Needs, Her Needs by Willard F. Harley, Jr.

“Time after time, His Needs, Her Needs has topped the charts as the best marriage book available.”

Where is God When It Hurts? By Philip Yancey

“A comforting, healing guide for coping with hard times.”



Continued

Dark Orange: Evangelism:

It by Craig Groeschel

Ed Young writes, “As a visionary leader, Craig Groeschel understands *it*-that unexplainable attraction that draws people to church. And in this book he helps every church leader find *it*, keep it and display *it*, so your people will finally get *it*.”

White: Educational

Mouse Prints: Journey Through the Church Year, put out by AAL, Aid Association for Lutherans

A great resource for parents or Sunday School teachers. It is in a zip-up blue bag that contains: The Time of the Church book and Activity Book, The Time of Easter and Activity Book, The Time of Christmas and Activity Book. There is also a Parent’s Guide and cassette tapes.



**You are cordially invited to
the bridal shower of**

Olivia Thomas

Sunday, December 19th @ Palestine Church

3:00 p.m.



Christmas Extravaganza

**Saturday, December 11th
9 a.m. – noon**

Come in and pick out your own goodies, or grab a pre-filled box.

Pricing: \$5 small box, \$10 medium box, \$20 large box

Please have exact change or make check
payable to ROCK Group.

Some Nut-free boxes will be available also!

Donations requested from the congregation! Let McKenzie know how many and what kind of baked goods you would like to donate - kenziek399@gmail.com, 515-203-0301. We have some amazing bakers in our congregation and always look forward to what you create for us to share! Please bring donated items to the church kitchen by Saturday, December 11th at 8:45 a.m.!



CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Wednesday, December 15th

6:15 p.m.

More Information to follow soon!



College Scholarships

Treasurer, Deidre Qual, reminds college students desiring to receive a Palestine scholarship that they **must notify the church office by letter or e-mail** of their name, address and college or

vocational school **by December 15th**. This information is needed to plan for distribution of the Palestine Scholarship Fund. \$100 is given to each qualifying student in December. This fund was set up to help provide encouragement for any student member of Palestine during the first four years after graduation from high school in any year which he or she continues his or her education at an approved college or vocational school.

Email: palestinelutheran@gmail.com

Mailing address: 1375 HWY 210, Huxley, IA 50124



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

Tyler Anderson, Jean Bair, Doreen Blackmer, Anita Brendeland, Scott Brown, Joan Carson, Matt Carver, Tonya Crees, Bev Echtenkamp, J.J.

Elliott, Julie Gentry, Dolores Hauge, Noelle Hartsook, Phyl Hughes, Warren Johnson, Kevin Klingbeil, Alvina Larson, Merlin Lyon, Gary Mittelsteadt, Loree Ness, Paul Ness, Linda Nordstrom, Roy Paradise, Deidre Qual, Karen Rew, Harold Rittgers, Shannon Tope, Tim Wise, Sarah JoAnn Young, Phill Zeller

Family and friends of: Judy Smith, Sharon Mortenson, Valerie Brendeland, Ralph Kalsem, Dean Simmons, Charles Brendeland, Tanner Houseman, Jimmy Young, 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, Alberta Helmke, Sara Prochnow Ojard, Joe Curtiss, Lilah Hurley, Marlys Larsen, Harriet Sheldahl, Abby Huntrods, David Vagneur

Merry Christmas from LSI!

*“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”
— John 1:5*

As Christmas approaches, we give thanks to you! This year has been another difficult time for all of us, and we are grateful for the lowans who have stepped up just for the sake of giving and helping the people LSI is privileged to serve. Thank you for bringing the light of Christ to your neighbors who rely on these important services!

At LSI, we know many people experiencing deep darkness. We know parents who feel hopeless, with little resources to raise their young children. We know adults with disabilities who feel voiceless, with no support system or connection to their community. We know teens who are aging out of foster care, who fear they will never have a forever family.

The holidays can be an especially difficult time for our neighbors who are so often overlooked in our society. In the spirit of giving, the spirit of love, and the spirit of working together, let us stand with them and lift them up this Christmas season. LSI’s annual matching gift campaign is currently active, and those making a new or increased financial gift can double their impact through the end of the year. If you would like to learn more about how you can support Iowa children and families, contact Deb Whitford, LSI Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at 563.676.2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org. LSI is also available to provide a customized virtual shared ministry opportunity for your congregation. If you would like to share the message of LSI with your community, please visit LSIowa.org/church-relations or contact our Waverly office at 319.352.2630 to get started.

Wishing you a blessed and merry Christmas from LSI!

Never Alone

Two years ago, Kayla knew it was time for a change in her life. She had struggled with substance use for years. When she was pregnant with her youngest son, Rafe, she was determined to build a brighter future for him. She entered treatment to become sober and create a healthy home for her baby.

While in treatment, Kayla enrolled in the HOPES program through LSI Early Childhood Services, which provides in-home parenting education and guidance for parents of young children. Kellie, Kayla's LSI worker, met with her every week to ensure she had all the resources and support she needed to raise Rafe in her home. They kept track of all his important developmental milestones, sharing smiles and laughs along the way. Whether it was supplying diapers or being a listening ear, Kellie was always there for Kayla.

Kayla is now two years sober, has a job as a chef, and feels empowered and confident that she has everything she needs to help her family thrive.

"I just feel overwhelmed and overjoyed. I never thought I could do all this, so I'm proud of myself," she says. "There are people at LSI that care about you. They are there to support you and they are willing to help."

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 www.LSIiowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Palestine Lutheran Church
1375 HWY 210
Huxley, IA 50124-8110
Address service requested