

# THE PALESTINE PRESS

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Monthly newsletter of Palestine Lutheran Church  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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Rev. Eric Klimpel, Pastor

Nels Dovre, Youth Liaison

## 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.

## 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."



## Believing in Dreams in 2020 with Pastor Eric

We too often forget about poor Joseph. Every year, we tend to focus on the story of Mary. But in Christmas 2019, it was Joseph.

Now, if the angel can appear to Mary, and then also appear to Joseph, there's a lesson in that. That means that the angel can appear to you and me, too. In the Bible, the annunciation does not occur only once, but twice—not just to a woman, but also to a man.

The Bible, then, carries an implicit message that God does appear over and over again, to various sorts of folks. Matthew and Luke both have it right, but they are different stories. God continues to come into the world, but we have to trust other sources!

What are you giving for Christmas and the New Year this year? I do not mean what did you get. We all want something wonderful, I am sure. But what are you giving for Christmas and the New Year?

The greatest gift you can give this year is to believe in someone's dreams. The greatest gift you can give is to have faith

in someone else; believe in their dreams. Believe in the dreams of the person you love. Believe in the dream of your husband. Believe in the dream of your wife. Believe in the dreams of your children. Believe in the dream of your hero, your leader, your friend. Believe in their dreams! *(from Samuel G. Candler, Believe in the Dreams of the Person You Love).*

I believe in God's dream for this community! Don't you? With a new year upon us, we are in a good time to consider God's dream for Palestine Lutheran Church this year! You and I are a part of that dream and we are those whom God calls to help realize it in the present! Actually we have begun this process with the listening experience this past autumn. Even as the "Listening Post" ends, we are not ever done listening to one another because listening is essential to understanding and growth. I encourage everyone to talk and listen to each person more closely this year and pray for God's wisdom at the same time. Before we can believe in the dreams of others we have to listen closely to them, as well as God's!

*Let us pray.*

*Gracious God, who spoke to Joseph in a dream about your salvation, may we listen to the hopes and dreams of others in our lives and be open to sharing our own, so that through them we might see our part in your dreams coming true for our community and in the world in which we live for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.*

## **Worship/Fellowship Opportunities in January**

**Jan 5** – Worship with Holy Communion; Children’s Church re-starts for the new year

**Jan. 12** – Worship

**Jan. 19** – Worship with Holy Communion; Annual Meeting Held Following the Worship Service

**Jan. 26** – Worship

## **Property Committee News**

**SNOW REMOVAL** - Volunteers needed

1. Parking lots & drives
2. Sidewalks

Sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall. ?s check with Mike Larson.

Special thanks to the many of you that have helped in past years.

## **Altar Guild News**

### **Altar Guild**

Vivian Lundgren and  
Donna Millang

### **Communion assistants**

**Jan. 5** - Henry & Jan Rumbaugh

**Jan. 19** - Leonard & Sue Larson

## **Usher Update**

**Jan. 5** – Scott Johnson

**Jan. 12** – Henry Rumbaugh

**Jan. 19** – Henry Rumbaugh

**Jan. 26** –

If you would like to sign up, let Pastor Eric know and he will send you a "sign-up genius" invite in order to allow for scheduling on-line. A hard copy sign up is also available on the counter in Fellowship Hall.

## **Greeter Updates**

**Jan. 5** – Joyce Carlson,  
Mike & Holly Larson

**Jan. 12** – Jeff & Kim Van Pelt  
Justin & Jodi Sample

**Jan. 19** – Jim & Nina Gotta  
Monica Ewing

**Jan. 26** – Ben & Candi Engler  
Allan & Deb Kopaska



## *Celebrating Their* **ANNIVERSARY**

### **December Anniversaries**

### **January Birthdays**

- 1 - Haylie Clark; Reagan Doty
- 3 - Ryan Engles
- 4 – Darren DeHaven; Lori Schonhorst
- 5 - Tracy Sheldahl
- 6 – Sarah Harman
- 9 – Angie Hartman; Kent Klingbeil
- 11 – Tracy Rhoads
- 12 – Lowell Elliott; 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

### **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 **answering machine** (515-597-2620), the **church website** ([www.plchuxley.com](http://www.plchuxley.com)), and the **church facebook page**.

We will notify the following **radio/TV stations** if worship or other events are to be canceled WHO, KCCI, KRNT, WOI. For smaller functions phone trees will also be utilized. **Sunday morning worship – a decision on service cancellation will be made no later than 8:30 am.**

## **VBS 2020**

Join us on a journey to *Mars and Beyond* as we explore where God's power can take us! Our mission takes place June 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm at Palestine. Registration details will be provided in spring 2020. Seeking volunteers. Contact Candi Engler ([volley\\_602@hotmail.com](mailto:volley_602@hotmail.com)) if you are ready to accept this mission.

## **Council December 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting Update**

Kristin Shelton, Tim Wilson, Patyor Eric, Nels Dovre, Cynthia Johnson, Deirre Qual, Dick Kepler, Jean Saveraid, Candice Engler, David Eisenmann, Ellen Longnecker, Brent Emerson

**A quorum was established.**

**Devotions** – Devotions – Nels Dovre

**Read vision and mission statements.**

**Goals and reflections** – Relationship with Fjeldberg is great!

## **Minutes of Previous Meeting –**

Candi Engler motioned to approve minutes. David Eisenmann seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report** – Nels Dovre motioned to approve treasurers report. David Eisenmann seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Pastors Report** – Pastor Klimpel Refer to Pastor's Report.

## **New Business:**

Update on Oriett's position – volunteers helping. We have one candidate but have yet to hear back. The individual is not from congregation.

Turning point – registration on January 1<sup>st</sup> is a \$1,000 fee. Tim Wilson motioned to go forward with payment. Dave Eisenmann seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Annual meeting agenda items included discussion on the nominating committee; determination of who was going off council; finding a new council president and finding a new council secretary.

## **Unfinished Business:**

Update on Technology – we missed Black Friday deals for new equipment.

Discussion on carpet cleaning.

## **Adjourn with Lord's Prayer**

**Next meeting:** January 5, 2020

**Congregational meeting January 19, 2020**



## **Prayerful Reminders**

During the past two months, our congregation has prayed for the following and we ask for your continued prayers, as well.

Laura Aust  
Dianne Blackmer  
Anita Bredeland  
Joan Carson  
Linda Cochran  
Alisha Cox  
Bev Echtenkamp  
Lowell Elliott  
Jackie Greene  
Warren Johnson  
Alice Kahler  
Ralph Kalsem  
Kevin Klingbeil

Eric Klimpel  
Rob Larson  
Merlin Lyon  
Roger Moore  
Loree Ness  
Chuck Ostermeier  
Deidre Qual  
Jody Schuman  
Shannon Tope

Marissa Vermeer  
Nova Lynn Walte  
Sarah JoAnn Young  
Phil Zeller

We also pray for the families dealing with loss this Holiday season including the family and friends of:

Don Trautner  
Wanda Halverson  
Bonny Erickson  
Angie Claude  
Donna Keiser  
Arlene Wee  
Judy Smith  
Sharon Mortenson  
Harold Hall  
Valerie Brendeland

We rejoice in the birth of Spencer Wise, son of Holly and Tim Wise, born on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>.

We give thanks for the baptism of Emerly Rose Ewing, daughter of Joshua and Maria Ewing and baptized on December 22.

## LSI Updates for January

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

These are all issues faced by Iowans. Join us to make sure they are heard at the Iowa State Capitol.

Please consider joining Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) and the three Iowa synods of the ELCA for Lutheran Day on the Hill, an annual day of advocacy in Des Moines to uplift the needs of our neighbors. The event will be held on Tuesday, February 25. Visit [www.LSIowa.org/advocacy](http://www.LSIowa.org/advocacy) next month for event details, online registration, and an online toolkit for your congregation.

If you are new to advocacy, come learn more about the legislative process and your role as a citizen. If you've attended before, join us again. 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 [www.LSIowa.org](http://www.LSIowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

### Finding Her Community

Originally from Eritrea, Kiros, her husband, and her young son were forced to flee their country and live in an Ethiopian refugee camp for almost two years.

When the opportunity came to resettle in Iowa, Kiros and her husband were excited to put down roots and call Iowa home. They settled in the Des Moines community and knew this was it; this was where they wanted to create a new life in the U.S.

Since then, they have raised four

more children and set their sights on receiving citizenship in the country that helped them heal and rebuild.

Kiros enrolled in LSI's English and citizenship classes and worked hard to study for her U.S. Citizenship Exam. Every week, she met with instructors from LSI's Refugee and Immigrant Services to prepare for her interview with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

When the time came, she passed her exam with flying colors. She recently attended her U.S. citizenship ceremony, then went home to prepare for her daughter's fifth birthday party.

Kiros has poured her time and energy into building a life where her family has the same opportunities as every other family in their community.



## **NOTES of Thanks**

Thank you to everyone who has made this Advent and Christmas season so wonderful and joyous!

I thank you staff - Mindy, Nels, Lesa and Christa - for your help and dedication throughout the Christmas season.

I thank you Council for your faith and support especially Kristin, Tim, Deidre, Ellen - David, Brent, Brad, Jean, Cynthia, Nels, Candi, Jennifer.

I thank you Lesa, Jody, Lori and Candi for your help in leading and coordinating the tremendous Christmas program this year!

I thank you Mindy for your cantata leadership!

I thank you Paris for playing the Advent lessons and carols when the rest of the choir was at Fjeldberg :)

I thank you Brent, Roger, Robin for helping with confirmation and supporting the challenging schedules of holiday life at Palestine.

I thank you congregation family for your support and the joy that you add to this season!

I thank you Robin, Deb, Holly, Marge, Louise, Ken for all that you did to set up, take down and organize the Church directory photos at Palestine over 3 days!

I thank you Oriett, Rebecca for helping with baptism certificates.

I thank you McKenzie, Sandy, Bill for helping with banners!  
I thank you Altar guild for the outstanding negotiation of chancel space for the Christmas stuff!

I thank you Tracey, Marge, Julie, Cindi, Deb, Doreen for your decorating and "tea service" for the Christmas tea and season!

Thank you Klimpels for your being there and patient yet again with ME :)

- Pastor Eric

**The ROCK Group** would like to thank the entire congregation for their continued support of the Christmas Extravaganza. Whether you baked cookies, donated items for sale, purchased cookies or prayed for

our event, all support is greatly appreciated.

**The Confirmation group** would like to thank you for your support of the meal we served following the Christmas program on December 8<sup>th</sup>. We received approximately \$800 in free-will donations which will go to support our activities including our every-other-year trip to Chicago.

**The Christian Education Committee** would like to thank the leadership of the Christmas program – Lesa Lewis, Jody Calvert, Lori Schonhorst and Candi Engler – for all their efforts for another successful performance. We'd also like to thank all the Children's Church teachers for a great Fall session of Children's Church! May the Winter and Spring sessions be equally as full and blessed!

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