

Peace

LET THE
PEACE OF CHRIST
RULE IN YOUR
HEARTS

COLOSSIANS 3:15



*Reaching out in Christian
love to all!*

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THE PALESTINE PRESS
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
December 2020



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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.



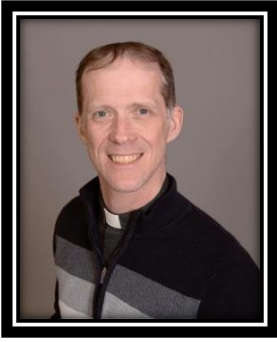
Pastor Eric will be doing limited visitation for members who would like to have one. Please contact Pastor Eric if you would like to have a visit. You do not have to wait for him to call.

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.

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Reaching and Stretching Out in Christian Love this Holiday *with Pastor Eric*

John 20:27 - Then Jesus said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. **Reach out** your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."

Matthew 14:31 - Jesus immediately **reached out** his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

Mark 3:3-5 - ³And Jesus said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come forward."... and said to the man, "**Stretch out** your hand." He **stretched it out**, and his hand was restored.

During the past several months we have all done some "soul searching" as a community and individually. We have taken the time to reflect and discern our calling as a congregation. We have taken a challenging time to find out what is a priority and what might need to be let go of for the moment. We did a discernment process in October and took a sabbatical to consider our new reality. I thank God every day for the wisdom gained in this time. We have an opportunity to grow and flourish because of 2020.

Like you, I have been thinking about our motto, "Reaching out in Christian love to all!" This motto is easy to remember, proactive and descriptive. I find the motto to be a much more effective mission and vision statement than the more comprehensive versions that we refer to as well. As we continue to discern in the midst of our most sacred holidays, I would like us to continue to think about this motto. What does it mean this Christmas? Into the new year? How does our physical renovation and restoration inspire us to "reach out" to other people in Christian love?





I want to kick this reflection off with the activity of “Reaching out.” Who is “reaching out”? Jesus reaches out to Peter as he begins to sink into the Sea of Galilee. Jesus reaches out his hands to bless the disciples and says, “..I will be with you always to the end of the age.” God reaches out to humanity to save again and again. God reaches out to Mary while putting her in a difficult spot to receive the gift of Jesus and assures her that nothing is impossible for God. God demonstrates through the scriptures how faithful and yes, trusting God is towards God’s children which includes us.

Guess what? We reach out as well. Jesus invites the man with a withered hand to stretch out his hand and it is restored. Peter got out of the boat and stretched outside his comfort zone at Jesus’s invitation and he walked on water. I think that “reaching out” and “stretching” are both involved in God’s call for us to take a risk and extend ourselves in life and as a people. I have discovered the hard way that “reaching and stretching” are essential to body health and flexibility. We are in a period in which flexibility is essential. God’s work among us during this time will cause us to stretch and in time reach out to embrace new things and new ways. God promises to reach out to us to catch us, support us and restore us as we face a post-pandemic time with new priorities and realities ahead.

If you like “*Christian pop*”, then I recommend the song “ Reach “ by Peter Furler (*Former News Boys lead singer*). It is an energetic and inspiring song about Jesus reaching for you especially relevant now. How might this song be understood if we are the ones reaching out?

Let us pray. Gracious Father, who reaches down to us with your Son and Spirit, one God, grab us and hold us in this anxious time as we seek to reach out and stretch to connect in many and various ways, so that we might grow to trust and rely on you more and more and receive the joy and peace of your presence. Help us to stretch in your love so that we might grow closer and encourage us to reach out to all in your love in order to bring renewal and restoration in your Son’s name, Jesus. Amen.

Study and Prayer Opportunities

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



Daily Faith Practices

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

Advent Week 2

Focus: *Hope*

“May 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.” (Romans 15:13 NRSV)

Read Romans 15:4-13

Advent Week 3

Focus: *Be Patient!*

“You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.” James 5:8 (NRSV)

Read James 5:7-10

Advent Week 4

Focus: *God’s Beloved*

“Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God ...”

(Romans 1:1-4a NRSV)

Read Romans 1:1-7

First Sunday of Christmas

Focus: *The Meaning of Christmas*

“Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God...” Hebrews 2:17 (NRSV)

Read Hebrews 2:10-18



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

Grace and peace to you, people of God
of the Southeastern Iowa Synod,

What a joy it is to greet you as your
bishop! I am eager to step into this role
and to begin accompanying you as we
together share the good news of God
in Christ Jesus. I have news to share,
gratitude to give, and prayers - so
many prayers - for you and yours.



Gratitude for the installation

What a joy it was to worship together on October 10 for the Service of the Word and Rite of Installation. Thank you for joining in the celebration! There were 90 people present in the procession. There were more than 300 present in worship via Zoom and Facebook Live and many more have watched the recorded service. There were 54 people involved in worship leadership including 11 bishops, 40 volunteers (musicians, readers, speakers, prayers) representing 18 Southeastern Iowa Synod congregations in the synod, plus Matt O'Rear, Interim Dean of the Chapel, Wartburg Seminary, and Val Harlynn, Associate for Communications. There was fantastic hospitality provided by St. John Lutheran Church, St. Donatus, and Pastor William Layton. It was a great day and a launch into our shared ministry as we share the Good News of God through Jesus Christ together. [If you missed the service and would like to see photos or videos visit the synod website.](#)

Office of the Bishop and staff transitions

Thank you for your prayerful support through this time of transition for the Office of the Bishop staff. This team, including Bishop Burk, has been all in and has endured a much longer than anticipated

transition this spring into summer and now well into autumn. I am deeply grateful for their ministry. There are some staff transitions to announce. I expect that Bishop Burk is now relishing in his first official days of retirement. I hope that he and Diane find much joy and rest. Cristina Barkalow, Receptionist, completed her work this last week. I am thankful for Cristina's ministry, kindness, and hospitality. Lorraine Jordan, Administrative Assistant, will complete her work on November 15. I am thankful for Lorraine's ministry, dedication, and administrative skills through these years. Covid-time does not allow for proper farewell receptions, but I do encourage you to send your greetings and gratitude to these colleagues to the office and we will be sure to pass them along.

Pastor Paul Ostrem, Assistant to the Bishop, has announced his intention to officially retire on December 31. We will share information at a later date to celebrate and give gratitude for Pastor Ostrem's ministry among us.

I am excited to share that Pastor Erika Uthe, Director for Evangelical Mission, Val Harlynn, Associate for Communications, and Kathy Smith, Associate for Administration, will continue in their ministry in their respective roles. Please continue to pray for all of these partners in ministry as we step forward now in this new phase of ministry in the life of the synod. I will be sharing information in the next weeks about additional staff roles that will be added in the coming months.

Prayers-so many prayers

Amidst the ongoing rollercoaster of the pandemic, in a world that is enduring or recovering from one natural disaster after another, here we are between yesterday's All Saints festival worship and a highly polarized election day tomorrow. This is A LOT!

Plus, many of us are holding, carrying, tending, fearing, enduring much more in personal lives, families, congregations, and communities. I pray that in the midst of this you remember that God is your refuge and strength.



When the world feels relentless, the Spirit calls to you, "Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)

When the world invites you to hate and fear one another,
Jesus invites you to, "love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:39)

When the world is exhausting,
Jesus invites you, "Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

When the world makes you feel alone,
Jesus invites you, "Remember, I am with you always to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

When the world seeks to dim the gifts that you have been given to share,
Jesus invites you, "Let your light shine before others." (Matthew 5:16)

When the world tries to strip you of your faith,
God invites you to remember, "Emmanuel, which means God is with us." (Matthew 1:23)

Jesus is with you and holding the whole world.

Peace be yours,

Bishop Amy Current

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT PALESTINE

Midweek Advent Services:

- Wednesday, December 2nd @ 7:30 p.m.
Service of Lament and Hope
- Wednesday, December 9th @ 7 p.m.
Blue Christmas
- Wednesday, December 16th @ 7:30 p.m. *Fear Not! – A Service for Advent*
- Wednesday, December 23rd @ 7:30 p.m.
Service of Hope and Expectation

Christmas Eve:

Nativity of Our Lord; Holy Communion

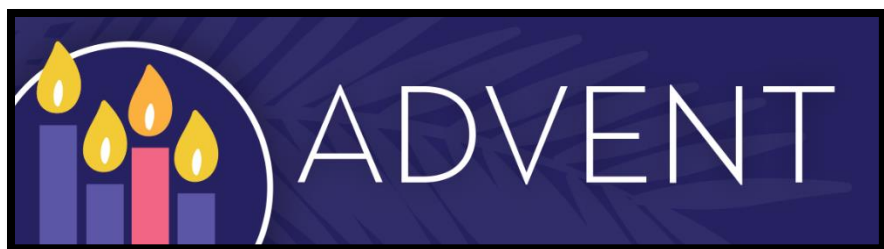
3 p.m.	3 services to allow for social
5 p.m.	distancing. Stay tuned for further
7 p.m.	details.

Christmas Day:

Nativity of Our Lord; Holy Communion

Living room Worship (pre-recorded) to post by 1 p.m.

Advent Special Offerings support the Palestine Confirmation class Youth for their confirmation trip. Due to COVID-19 fundraising for this trip has been depleted. 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:

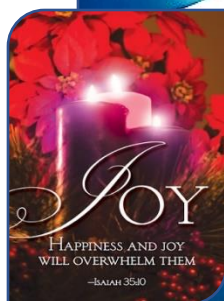
- Advent Calendars, Devotion booklets, Family Devotions and Activities booklets, and the Holiday Resource Guide are all available in front of the sanctuary entrance in fellowship hall.
- **Advent Wreath kits will be available November 29th and December 6th.** *Donation for materials is appreciated.*



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Refer to the Holiday Resources packet for Advent and Christmas Season (available to pick up or on our website) for:

- ❖ Reading about the Colors of Advent is a great teaching tool with the kids as well as reminders for adults.
- ❖ Explanations of decorations we use (evergreens, holly, etc.)
- ❖ Activities to do together as a family to remind of us of the Reason for the Season.
- ❖ Blue Christmas meaning and service information.
- ❖ Building your own nativity scene.
- ❖ Write ups about the meaning of each candle and a nice prayer you can say when lighting your candles at home.
- ❖ An Activity a Day to keep you involved in preparing.



To our guest speaker who helped us with our discernment topic in November



**November 15th – Dr. Rich Powers
(Superintendent of
Bondurant-Farrar Schools)**

Sailing Together in Anxious Times

Questions Asked:

- 1) What are you anxious about every day?
- 2) How does the church help you overcome this anxiousness and where could the church improve? Where do you see Palestine helping overall anxiety in our community?

Article referenced in bulletin:

Playing off that storm metaphor, here are some of the various economic experiences of the pandemic:

- **Capsized:** These people have experienced the full blow of the economic crisis: layoffs, business closure, loss of insurance, death of loved ones, and more.
- **Barely afloat:** These folks are currently being tossed about by the waves.
- **Storm clouds up ahead:** This group sees the storm looming on the horizon.
- **Calm waters:** These are the people who have been neutrally or even positively impacted by the pandemic.



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
 20 Brian Harleen
 21 Louise Larson
 22 Jax Richter
 24 Whitney Larson
 25 Tim Wilson
 27 Marvin Sorensen
 (87th)
 28 Cody Fausch
 Ben Larson
 Rafe Madson
 29 Max Clark
 Lucas Williams
 31 Penn Hill



5 Bill & Sandy Harleen
 14 Del & Vivian Lundgren
 19 Scott & Alyssa Johnson
 Mike & Cindi Thomas
 Cheryl & Mike Rasmussen
 27 Donna & Mike Lisowski

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



SUNDAY	MONDAY
29 8:00 a.m. Dawn Dialog via Zoom 9:30 a.m. Worship; 1 st Sunday of Advent <i>Advent Wreath Kits available</i>	30
6 8:00 a.m. Dawn Dialog via Zoom 9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion; 2 nd Sunday of Advent <i>Advent wreath kits available</i> KICK videos due	7
13 8:00 a.m. Dawn Dialog via Zoom 9:30 a.m. Worship; 3 rd Sunday of Advent	14
20 8:00 a.m. Dawn Dialog via Zoom 9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion; 4 th Sunday of Advent "Favorite Christmas Family Traditions" Virtual program	21
27 8:00 a.m. Dawn Dialog via Zoom 9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion; First Sunday of Christmas; Christmas Lessons & Carols	28

December 2020

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURS.	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 6:30 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study Giving Tuesday @ Riverside Bible Camp	2 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:00 p.m. ZOOM Palestine Prayer Time 1:00 p.m. Quilters 6:30 – 7:30 Confirmation 7:30 p.m. Midweek Service	3	4	5 9 a.m. – noon ROCK Cookie Extravaganza - Drive Through!
8 6:30 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study	9 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:00 p.m. ZOOM Palestine Prayer Time 1:00 p.m. Quilters 6:30 – 7 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Midweek Service	10	11	12
15 6:30 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study	16 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:00 p.m. ZOOM Palestine Prayer Time 1:00 p.m. Quilters 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Confirmation 7:30 p.m. Midweek Service	17	18	19
22 6:30 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study	23 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:00 p.m. ZOOM Palestine Prayer Time 7:30 p.m. Midweek Service	24 Christmas Eve; Holy Communion 3 p.m. 5 p.m. 7 p.m.	25 Christmas Day; Holy Communion – Living Room Worship pre-recorded. Post by 1 p.m.	26 
29 6:30 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study	30 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:00 p.m. ZOOM Palestine Prayer Time	31		



Agenda – Palestine Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Sunday, November 8th, 2020 @ 8:00 AM at

Palestine Lutheran Church

Zoom link for those who are remote:

Kristin Shelton, Jean Saveraid, Brad Lewis, Tim Wilson, Candi Engler, Brent Emerson, Brent Emerson, Hailey Clark, Chris Richter, Jen Pote, Cynthia Johnson, Pastor Klimpel, Deidre Qual

A quorum was established.

Devotions: Brad — Change

Read Vision and Mission Statements.

Goals and Reflections: Pastor Eric is back —injured, but back. Things are going well. Kumla went very well. Confirmation Sunday went very well.

Minutes of the previous meeting: Jean motioned to approve. Candi seconded. Overwhelming Support for the minutes passed.

Treasurer's Report: Deidre read the written report. Chris Richter motioned to approve. Jen Pote seconded. All chimed their ayes accordingly.

General Fund : \$7879.41

Checking Balance Total: \$118,215.29 (*this includes insurance money*)

Pastor's Report: Pastor Klimpel — No Report. Updated on Continuing Education and Sabbatical. Boundaries Course. Technology Class. Back is hurting. Thank you to Nels and Brent for all the work they have done on Confirmation and during the services.

New business:

Christmas program update. Video snippets will be the program. Rodents. We are aware of the problem. Once we are done with construction we will mitigate the problem.

Chris Richter brought up idea about Virtual Groups at church for kids if Ballard goes 100% virtual. (could we be a learning pod?) How do we prepare to be help amongst the upcoming disappointment for Holidays?/ Lock downs? etc.

Unfinished Business:

Construction Update. Asbestos Mitigation in process. Drywall is in process as is the insulation. Roof is dried in. Trim yet to do. Condensing units moving this next week onto roof.

Motion to Adjourn & Adjourn with Lord's Prayer: Candi Engler motioned to adjourn. Jean Saveraid seconded.

Next Meeting - December 6th, 2020

Treats- Candi

Devotions- Brent



**THANK YOU
FOR BLOOD GIVING**

RESULTS FROM PALESTINE BLOOD DRIVE!

- 42 people on the schedule going into the drive
- 32 registered to donate
- One first-time donor!
- 30 were able to donate
- 30 units of blood collected!!!
- Up to 90 lives saved or sustained!!!!



Tusen Takk!

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

It was a different event with carry-out orders this year, and we hope we can return to the wonderful fellowship time we have previously experienced! Thank you for your support.

Great Facebook post!!!





Remember in Prayer

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

Laura Aust, Dianne Blackmer, Anita Brendeland, Dick Brown, Penny Brown, Joan Carson, Alisha Cox, Russ DeVries, Bev Echtenkamp, Lowell Elliott, Jane Gordan, Jackie Green, Bruce & Sandy Halverson, Dolores Hauge, Christa Hartsook, Warren Johnson, Dick Kepler, Kevin Klingbeil, Alvina Larson, Ardell Lundgren, Merlin Lyon, Mary Martin, Loree Ness, Jen Pote, Deidre Qual, Shannon Tope, Joyce Volz, Sarah JoAnn Young, Phil Zeller

Family & friends of Don Trautner, Wanda Halverson, Bonny Erickson, Angie Claude, Donna Keiser, Arlene Wee, Judy Smith, Sharon Mortenson, Valerie Brendeland, Sue Ihle, Ralph Kalsem, Mark Richter, Dean Simmons, Charles Brendeland, Tanner Houseman, Rev. LeRoy Dobbe, Jimmy Young, Darrell Rout, John Maier, Elaine Pote, Travis Ellis, John Johnson, Mae Rivard, Doris Ness, Nathan Stupka



Kids in Christ's Kingdom (3rd-6th graders)

Virtual event this year!
**Deadline for Videos to be
submitted is
Sunday, December 6th!**





Christmas Extravaganza

Saturday, December 5th

9 a.m. – noon

Drive-through style!

The R.O.C.K. Group is still planning on having their annual Christmas Extravaganza but it will look a little different this year.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to have vendors and "cookie shopping" like we usually do, but will still be selling pre-boxed cookies of different varieties and sizes.

We plan to have a cookie drive through/pick up. Come to the west side under the portico and someone will greet you to take your order!

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

Please have exact change or make check

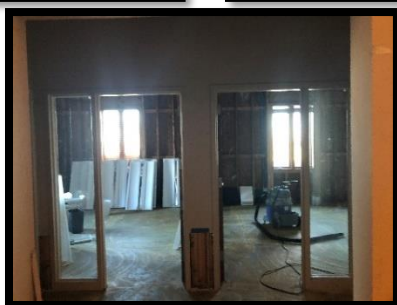
payable to ROCK Group.

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 Wednesday, December 2nd!

CHURCH PROGRESS

Derecho damage has been a time of discernment, navigation and faith! Between moving out everything, wet vacuuming water in the north hall, asbestos mitigation in sanctuary and fellowship hall, roof work, tearing up flooring, picking out new flooring, and holding outside services in August and September we are NO strangers to “going with the flow”!



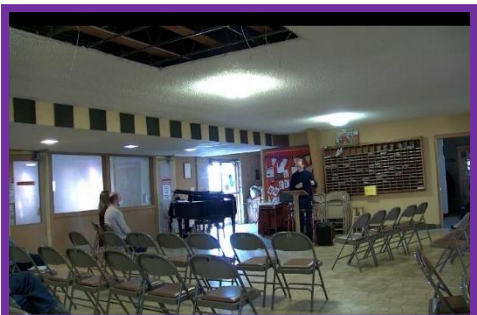
Worshipping . . .



Outside



Inside on chairs



In Fellowship Hall





SNOW Removal

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

We're using SignUp.com to organize our upcoming SignUps.

Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

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

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

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

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

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



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



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.

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.

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

GIVING TUESDAY

We are looking forward to Giving Tuesday again this year as a way for our supporters to continue to help Riverside in our goal of "Making Christ Known to All"! We will have both virtual and in person options for our 2020 Giving Tuesday at Riverside, and be sure to check back for all of the details. Mark your calendar for **Tuesday, December 1!**



Sincere thanks to those that have reached out, said prayers, and provided meals for our family since my accident. We are so incredibly thankful for the love and support of our church family. Special thank you to those providing the meal and assistance the day the fencing crew was helping finish the project. Bones are all fixed; we can now focus on the healing portion of this journey. God has reminded us that miracles still occur and he continues to show us his love through all of you. Thank you.

Greg & Christa Hartsook

THANK YOU

I would like to thank the congregation, pastor and all the confirmation classes for the thoughtful gift after my years as a confirmation guide.

A simple thank you isn't enough express how much it means to me, not just the gift but my confirmation experience.

There are so many people I owe a special thanks to it's impossible to mention them all but I need recognize a few. First would be Marla Simmons who asked me to try being a guide for one year and see how it goes. I have to thank all of the parents that have allowed me to be a part of your child's Christian education. I owe a big thank you to all of my fellow guides over the years but especially Brent for his friendship and "youthful" insight. I would like to thank all of the pastors that have taught me along with the kids what it means to be a Lutheran and a Christian.

My mother, in her declining years, would say "I have four boys, I don't remember their names, but I love them all" and so it is with me, I have met many fantastic young people. I don't remember all of their names but I love them all.

Thanks again for all of the gifts I have received over the years.



Roger Moore

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 challenging for all of us, and we are grateful for the Iowans who have stepped up just for the sake of giving and helping LSI in 2020. 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 to love them.

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. If you would like to learn more about how you can support Iowa children and families, contact Deb Whitford, LSI’s 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 contact our Waverly office at 319.352.2630 to get started.

Wishing you a blessed and merry Christmas from LSI!

Continuum of Care

As she prepared to celebrate her 18th birthday, Sam was also preparing to age out of foster care. She had lived with her foster mom, Marty, for years and Marty wanted to ensure Sam had a smooth transition into adulthood. That's when they signed up for LSI's Host Homes program.

Provided through LSI's Services for People with Disabilities, Host Homes provides personalized care for Iowans with disabilities who find greater success living in a private family home instead of a busier community living environment with roommates. Individuals are carefully matched with a Host Homes mentor and live with them in their home, where they can build strong relationships and become better engaged with their communities.

Marty became a Host Homes mentor so Sam could continue living in her home and receive the same care and support she was used to. Sam is thriving and Marty gets to continue walking alongside her as she builds a bright future full of independence. They work on Sam's goals every day, including cooking and planning meals. Marty especially loves fishing and going on picnics with Sam and as a Host Homes mentor, she can continue serving as a foster parent to other Iowa teens.

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 and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

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