

The Palestine Press

December 2019

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Monthly newsletter of

Palestine Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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Pastor Eric Klimpel

Nels Dovre, Youth Liaison

Reaching Out in Christian Love to All

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."

Preparing in Christ's Presence this Holiday with Pastor Eric

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." Luke 2:10-12

As I hear, read, study and preach this Christmas miracle story year after year, I marvel at the observation that the central figure, Jesus, is hardly in the narrative at all. Jesus is an innocent baby and no different from any other baby born at the time to a poor family. What seems to set him apart comes from the other people in the story and how they respond to God's call and divine action at work in and amongst them? Everything about this Christmas story revolves around God's love and activity in every moment and with each character in the story.

I wonder how our lives reflect the love and activity of "God with us." Let's not forget that Jesus has already been born over 2000 years ago, and he lived, died and rose again three days later. Jesus ascended into heaven and promised to be with us always, so as we prepare for the holiday season and the retelling of this Gospel message, we should remember that we are preparing in the presence of Christ right now. I hope that we take the time to focus on how Jesus is here! Treasure every moment with loved ones and celebrate the generosity and humility which God continues to work in us and around us.

I encourage each one of you to let go and spend time with God this Advent and Christmas. You may use a devotion from church, or come to one or more special worship services, or just wonder at the miracle of life with thanksgiving in a card written to someone, or in the quiet of your bedroom. Share this holiday in a memorable and hopeful way with everyone in your path because our God of love and grace never stops giving and working with us and amongst us. Amen.

Worship/Fellowship Opportunities in December

Dec. 1 – First Sunday in Advent with Holy Communion; Advent Wreath Making

Dec. 4 – Midweek Worship at 7:30 in Choir Loft

Dec. 7 – ROCK Christmas Extravaganza 9-12 pm

Dec. 8 – Second Sunday in Advent; Choir Cantata; Christmas Program at 4:30 pm; Meal by the Confirmation Class

Dec. 10 - Blue Christmas Service – 7:00pm

at Slater United Methodist Church, Slater, Iowa

Dec. 11 – Christmas Caroling at Ballard Creek at 6:15 pm

Dec. 15 – Third Sunday of Advent with Holy Communion; Senior Tea

Dec. 24 – Christmas Senior Service at Ballard Creek home with Holy Communion; Christmas Eve Family Service at 5 pm

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day – 9:00 am

@ Nazareth Lutheran, Cambridge w/breakfast

Dec. 29 - New Dawn Worship – 9:30 am; Affirmation of Baptism and New Year's Blessing; Christmas Lessons and Carols 2019

Property Committee News

NOW 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

Nancy Fausch and Teri Klimpel

Communion assistants

Dec. 1st Bruce Hartman and Lyle Martin

Dec. 15th Bill and Sandy Harleen

Dec. 24th Bob and Oriett Snyder

Usher Update

Dec 1 - Timothy Wise, Jim Gotta, Brent Emerson

Dec 8 - Tim Wilson, Scott Johnson, Jim Gotta

Dec 15 - Jim Gotta

Dec 22 – Jim Gotta

Dec. 24 – Jim Gotta

Dec. 29 – Jim Gotta

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.

Church Youth News

Christmas Program Reminders

Dec. 1 - 6-8 pm – Program practice at the church (3rd – 6th grades)

Dec. 4 - 5:30 – 6 p.m. Dinner for Christmas program practice (3rd – 6th grades); 6 – 7:30 p.m. Christmas program practice

Dec. 8 - 10:45 – noon Christmas program practice preschool – 6th grades; 4:30 – Christmas program with meal to follow

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 22nd-26th, 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) if you are ready to accept this mission.

Calling all College Students

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**. **\$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. E-mail: PLC@huxcomm.net

Greeter Updates

Dec 1 - Donna & Dennis Millang; Tim & Shannon Wilson
Dec 8 - Chris & Rich Nelson; Sue & Leonard Larson
Dec 15 - Diane & Virgil Larson; Marge Sheldahl
Dec 22 - Jen & Mark Pote; Bill & Sandy Harleen
Dec 29 - David & Vallery Eisenmann; Helen & Dick Kepler

December Birthdays

2 - Rahner, Jill
4 - Calvert, Jody; Johnson, Jacey
5 - Klimpel, Austin; Young, Travis
11 - Hill, Laurie
12 - Young, Lora
14 – Williams, Owen
18 - Polich, Andrew
20 - Harleen, Brian
21 - Larson, Louise
22 – Richter, Jax; Weikum, John
24 - Larson, Whitney
25 - Wilson, Tim
27 - Sorensen, Marvin (86th)
28 - Fausch, Cody; Larson, Ben
29 - Clark, Max; Williams, Lucas
31 - Hill, Penn

December Anniversaries

5 – Bill & Sandy Harleen
14 – Del & Vivian Lundgren
19 – Scott & Alyssa Johnson (10th); Mike & Cindi Thomas
26 – Donna & Mike Lisowski

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), 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.**

Church Directory Update

New Church Directory Photos are Just Weeks Away!

Sign up now for your photo session for the new Palestine church directory – it's just a few weeks away! Our new directory will allow us to connect names and faces and stay connected. The new directories will be both printed and digital.

Photography times are now available and we encourage everyone to sign up for a free photo session that includes a free 8x10 portrait by Lifetouch.

Dates: Tuesday, December 10 2pm – 9pm

Wednesday, December 11 2pm – 8pm

Thursday, December 12 2pm – 8pm

To schedule your photography session, go to our church website www.plchuxley.com and click on the “member sign up for church photography session” in purple on the right.

Submitted photos will be accepted until December 12th. Please give photos to Deb Moore or Robin Doty. High-resolution digital images can be emailed to robin@robindoty.com. Please include a photo release from professionally taken photos.

Council November 3rd Meeting Update

Kristin Shelton, Pastor Eric, Nels Dovre, Cynthia Johnson, Deidre Qual, Dick Kepler, Jean Saveraid, Candice Engler, David Eisenmann, Jen Pote, Ellen Longnecker, Brad Lewis, and Brent Emerson

A quorum was established.

Devotions – Brent Emerson; His plan is more important than our plan

Read Vision and Mission Statements

Goals and Reflections –

Attendance has been good in church and children sermon

Minutes of the previous meeting –

Candice Engler moves to approve minutes. Brent Emerson Seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously

Treasurer’s Report – Deidre Qual

Nels moves to approve treasurers report. Jean seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Pastor’s Report – Pastor Klimpel; Refer to pastor’s report.

New Business:

- Update on Oriett’s Position – Christa Hartsook is doing newsletter, Lesa Lewis is doing bulletins. Planning on interviews with candidates.
- Carpet Cleaning; Carpets will be getting cleaned
- Pew Movement
- Baptism – Oakley Sickels on November 24th; Baptism of Oakley was approved and passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

- 1) Update on technology – Brent Emerson

Adjourn with Lord’s prayer

Consider Sending Some Extra Christmas Cards!

Following is a listing of Palestine’s members who are 85 or older (denoted with a *), widowed the last 3 years, and/or homebound to some degree, if you wish to send them a Christmas greeting.

Chuck Bowers

32310 560th Ave
Huxley, IA 50124

***Anita Brendeland**

Journey Sr Living of Ankeny
3602 NW 5th St
Ankeny, IA 50023

***Dick & *Bernadine Cast**

3702 NE Cottonwood Ln
Ankeny, IA 50021

***Bev Echtenkamp**

3718 NE Cottonwood Lane
Ankeny, IA 50021

***Nancy Fausch**

52711 310th St
Kelley, IA 50134

Dolores Hauge

55422 HWY 210
Huxley, IA 50124

***Warren Johnson**

30545 560th Ave
Cambridge, IA 50046

***Ralph & Sandy Kalsem**

175 Cardinal Rd
Ames, IA 50010

***Alvina Larson**

1675 NE 166th Ave
Huxley, IA 50124

***Leona O. Larson**

56800 HWY 210
Cambridge, IA 50046

***Del & *Vivian Lundgren**

1031 NE Greenview Dr
Ankeny, IA 50021

***Helen Miller**

203 N 3rd St, Apt H4
Huxley, IA 50124
304 E 4th St
Huxley, IA 50124

***Roy & *Elaine Paradise**

3602 NE Cottonwood Ln
Ankeny, IA 50021

***Harold Rittgers**

165 Cardinal Rd
Ames, IA 50010

Katherine Saveraid

33845 585th Ave
Cambridge, IA 50046

***Shirley Saveraid**

Ballard Creek #133
908 N HWY 69

Huxley, IA 50124

***Harriet Sheldahl**

108 S 5th Ave
Huxley, IA 50124

Marge Sheldahl

54183 320th St
Huxley, IA 50124

***Marvin Sorensen**
12635 NE 56th St
Elkhart, IA 50073

Riverside/Thrivent Giving Tuesday Chili & Caroling Event

When Tues., December 3, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Where Riverside Dining Hall, 3001 Riverside Road, Story City, IA, 50248

Description Come enjoy this holiday open house! Chili, cornbread, and cookies will be served up along with some great opportunities to participate in caroling, cookie and tree decorating! Thrivent will match \$1 for every \$2 gifted ON THIS DAY . . . excited to spend the evening with YOU!

Hope Ministries December Need

On Christmas, we will send thousands of meals out into the community, and we need driver teams to help! This is where the rubber meets the road during our holiday outreach. :) Driver teams not only deliver food—they also provide prayer and fellowship. We would love to have a team (or two) from your church! Sign up here: <https://hopeministries.volunteerhub.com/>.

LSI Updates for December

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

As Christmas approaches, we give thanks to you! Whether you have lifted up our organization through a financial or in-kind gift, volunteered your time to our programming, or supported us as a ministry partner this year, you have helped bring the light of Christ to others.

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 family to love them.

The holidays can be an especially difficult time for our most vulnerable neighbors. 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 director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563.676.2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org.

Wishing you a blessed and merry Christmas from LSI!

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.

ELCA Outreach Update

Last year, multiple fires raged in California, devastating numerous communities and almost wiping out the city of Paradise. Now, one year after the Camp Fire — the deadliest and most destructive fire in California history — thousands of people remain displaced, many with no plan to return. In the wake of another round of fires in California, today we join in prayer for those who are on the long road to recovery, and we reflect upon God’s faithfulness along the journey.

Thanks to you, Lutheran Disaster Response has been able to walk alongside communities impacted by the 2018 fires with crucial support — from emergency supplies such as food and bedding to emotional and spiritual care. I’d like to share with you a downloadable report with some highlights of what your generous gifts have allowed us to do so far. [Click here to read the report: “2018 California Wildfires: One Year Later.”](#)

We’re not done yet. We’ll continue to accompany survivors until recovery is complete. [Your continuing gifts help make this and other responses like it possible.](#)

Thank you, again, for your generosity and support.

In Christ’s service,
The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response Funding

A Note of Thanks

To my family of faith at Palestine –

A special thank you to each of you for your well wishes, cards and gifts for my retirement. The reception complete with flowers and cupcakes was very nice. I will enjoy the framed nativity cross surrounded with familiar faces on the mat.

As I approach my anniversary on my journey with cancer, I want to thank you for all your support and encouragement during this ‘first’ year. Your prayers have provided peace.

I am truly blessed to have you in my life.

Oriett

To my Palestine Family –

Special thanks for everything done to make our Confirmation Day a special one in October. The support of the congregation during our faith journey is much appreciated. Thank you for the gifts, the cake and the flowers in our honor.

Luke Hartsook