

Follow the star
like the
wisemen
to find the
greatest gift . . .



Reaching out in Christian love to all!

1375 Highway 210, Huxley, IA 50124 515-597-2620 (Pastor) 515-597-2624 (Office)

> <u>palestinelutheran@gmail.com</u> www.plchuxley.com

THE PALESTINE PRESS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER January 2023



Rev. Eric Klimpel, Pastor 515-597-2620 936-444-3895 (cell) ericklimpel@gmail.com

Nels Dovre, Youth Liaison 319-331-7368 (cell) dovren@gmail.com

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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Palestine will accept your offering!

- Bring to worship service with you and place in offering plates.
- 2. Mail check to:

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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.

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

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



Jesus lays out some challenging standards for being a follower of His way of life.

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. (Matthew 16:24-25)

When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "There is still one thing lacking. Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." (Luke 18:22)

²⁸One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" ²⁹Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' ³¹The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:28-31)

These verses are a small sampling of the teaching of Jesus regarding standards for disciples. Can you imagine what the world would be like if we could obey these three teachings? Yes, it does not seem possible especially if we cannot live these out in our own faith communities!

Here's the thing – Jesus makes it possible for us to pivot "obey" into another cool word, "try!"

I love the word "try" because this word has action and power! You cannot help but learn and grow by trying new things, or difficult tasks. Trying moves us closer to something better and if we fail (and we do fail!) then God forgives and declares that nothing will get in the way of His love and presence. Jesus obeyed the demands of the Law perfectly so that we might be given the assuring encouragement to try ourselves to obey and live what we know deep down is the best way, God's way.

We are preparing to undergo a discernment process again and try to listen to what God is calling us to do in the coming year. Here is the catch – we might be challenged in ways that we will not like; however, keep in mind that we are to love our neighbor at least as much as we love ourselves – we can try, right? And if we falter, then we can forgive as we are forgiven, and go to God to find a way forward!

I will end this article with a reading from Isaiah 43 which reminds us that God is at work, and we do not have to be afraid of God or our neighbor!

¹But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: <u>Do not fear</u>, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior...¹8Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. ¹9I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? (Isaiah 43:1-3,18-19)

Let us move into the new year ready to try! Amen.

GET INVOLVED

Men's Bible Study

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

ZOOM Bible Study

Tuesdays @ 7:30 pm on ZOOM. Beginning January 10th. Stay tuned to the weekly announcements for more details.

Youth Confirmation Ministry

For youth in 7th and 8th grades – 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 @ ericklimpel@gmail.com

R.O.C.K. Group

For high school students. The R.O.C.K. Group will meet the first Wednesday of every month from 6:30 – 8 p.m.

New Member Orientation Meetings

Every 2nd and 4th Sundays 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 January 15, 2023 from 5 − 6:15 p.m. at Fenceline Beer Lab in Huxley, 107 S Main Ave, Huxley, IA 50124 (No reservations needed, just show up! ②)



The Confirmation group thanks everyone for participating in the raffle of the *Julie Huxford Original* Porch Pot.

Mindy DeVries was the lucky recipient of this raffle. We raised \$880 to go towards our 2023 trip to Chicago to visit the ELCA headquarters and the Children's Place!





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

Transfiguration of our Lord

Focus: How can a person show love towards God's Beloved?

"While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with him I am well pleased; listen to him!'" Matthew 17:5 (NRSV). Read Matthew 17:1-9

Baptism of our Lord

Focus: What does it mean to you to follow God's Son?

"And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17 (NRSV)

Read Matthew 3:13-17

2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Focus: What does it mean to follow an innocent man of God who was sacrificed for our sins?

"The next day [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29 (NRSV). Read John 1:29-42

3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Focus: When do you need Jesus to shine light on your path?

"The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." Matthew 4:16 (NRSV). Read Matthew 4:12-23

4th Sunday of Epiphany

Focus: What is Jesus trying to teach me today?

"When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them . . ." Matthew 5:1-2 (NRSV) Read Matthew 5:1-12

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 12-11-22

"The First Christmas"







Confirmation kids ready for "Silent Night"



New Books!!!!

- 1. Good Boundaries and Goodbyes Lisa Terkeurst
- Hello Little Dreamer Kathie Lee Gifford
- 3. Dogwinks Squire Rushnell & Louise DuArt
- God's Politics Jim Wallis
- 5. It's Never Too Late Kathie Lee Gifford
- 6. Good Grief Granger Westberg
- 7. How to Live When a Loved One Dies Thich Nhat Hanh
- 8. Short Intro to Religion Gordon Kerr
- 9. 100 Best Bible Verses to Overcome Worry & Anxiety
- Rachel's Tears: The Spiritual Journey of Columbine Martyr Rachel Scott – Darrell Scott & Beth Nimmo
- 11. The Action Bible Devotions

Check them out!



Let's shower the following members with birthday cards:

Jan. 15th Richard "Dick" Cast

Jan. 29th Harold Rittgers

Jan. 30th Judy McKinney

See mailed newsletter for addresses.

I don't like to post personal info on website.



Haylie Clark Reagan DotyRyan Engles

- 4 Darren DeHavenLori Schonhorst5 Tracy Sheldahl
- 6 Sarah Hartman
- 7 Henry Rumbaugh (78th)
- 9 Angie Hartman Kent Klingbeil
- 11 Jay Harmon Tracy Rhoads
- 12 Laurie Biederman Tom Friedrichsen (73rd)
- 13 Missy Larson
- 14 Escher KopaskaMollie Sheldahl
- 15 Richard Cast (91st)
- 17 Deb Stowe
- 18 Bruce Hartman
- 19 Eden Richter
- 20 Casey Huxford

January 2023

- 22 Cynthia Johnson (77th)
- 25 David Anderson Colton Larson
- 27 Melissa Kopaska
- 29 Harold Rittgers (93rd)
- 30 Tyler Johnson Lesa Lewis Judy McKinney (85th)



- 2 Pastor Eric & Teri Klimpel (30th)
- 27 Tom & Cindy Friedrichsen

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

515-597-2624.



ALTAR GUILD: Donna Millang and Elaine Mohr

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

Jan. 1st: Dennis Millang
Jan. 15th: Doreen Blackmer

OFFERING COUNTERS: Matt

& Erika Williams

Greeters*, **

Jan. 1st: If anyone is here and can greet, please do!
Jan. 8th: Mark & Robin Doty:
Bruce & Angie Hartman
Jan. 15th: Laura Kepler, Kent
& Shelley Klingbeil
Jan. 22nd: Mark & Jen Pote;

Justin & Jodie Sample

Jan. 29th: Tom & Kari
Sandquist; Doug & Lori

Schonhorst

*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.

February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
1 1st Sunday of Christmas No choir 9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion No children's church No music with Nels	2	Annual Reports DUE
8 Baptism of our Lord 8:00 a.m. Council Mtg 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship Music with Nels New Member Orientation	9 Lesa on vacation	10 a.m. Area Pastor's Study 7:30 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study
15 2 nd Sunday of Epiphany 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion Music with Nels 5:00 – 6:15 p.m. Theology on Tap 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. 4H	16 Martin Luther King Birthday	17 10 a.m. Area Pastor's Study 7:30 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study
22 3 rd Sunday of Epiphany 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship Music with Nels New Member Orientation Annual Meeting Chili Cook-Off	23 10 a.m. Area Pastor's Study	24 10 a.m. Area Pastor's Study 7:30 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study
29 4 th Sunday of Epiphany 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship Music with Nels	30 10 a.m. Area Pastor's Study	31 10 a.m. Area Pastor's Study 7:30 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. R.O.C.K. meets	5 6:30 a.m. Kiwanis	6 Epiphany of Our Lord	7
7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	12	13	14
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 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Feb. Newsletter deadline	19 1:00 p.m. Ballard Ministerial Assoc. Mtg	20 Riverside Ladies Getaway (Pre-register)	21
7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Green Hills Devotions 1:00 p.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	26	27	28 2 – 6 p.m. Riverside Family Sledding & Pizza. (Pre-register)
Feb. 1 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	2	3	4



These minutes have not yet been approved.

Palestine Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes December 11th, 2022 8:00 A.M.

<u>Attendance</u>: Brad Lewis, Pastor Klimpel, Chris Richter, Dr. Eisenmann, Leonard Larson, Deb Moore, Greg Saveraid, Jen Pote, Hailey Clark **Absent**: Julie Emerson, Deidre Qual, Candi Engler, Kent Klingbeil, Kristin

Shelton

Quorum Established: Yes

Devotions: Greg Saveraid (Moving through life knowing we don't do it

alone)

Treats: Jen Pote

Read Vision and Mission Statements

Goals and Reflections:

History and Progress – Reason for the season

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

- Motion to approve: Dave E.
- Second: Jen Pote 2nd...
- Unanimous vote of approval

Treasurer's Report:

General Fund Balance: \$6,113.52

Total Checking: \$21,383.76

Motion to approve: Leonard Larson

Second: Dr. Eisenmann

Unanimous vote of approval

Pastor's Report:

Thanksgiving service went well.

- Confirmation fundraiser
- Kumla went fantastic, record serving and no shortages
- North Polk Ministerial meetings have started good to participate in
- Wisconsin Thanksgiving trip was really good
- Blue Christmas is in third year, Pastor preached (500 participate)
- Baptism pending
- Congregational Meeting upcoming, budget planning
- New Members on the 15th

New Business:

- Baptism: Reese Wuebker Brad motioned and Deb seconded.
- Baptism: Ella Saveraid Brad motioned and Deb seconded.
- New Members: Eric and Heidi Henriksen Leonard motioned and Doc seconded.
- New Member: Marlys Hartman Leonard motioned and Doc seconded.

Old Business:

- West Windows
- Sound Update: A+ Communications
- Social Media usage and advertising. How to enhance? Pastor volunteered to start doing it daily . . .

Closing Statements: Shine Bright for those in need.

Adjourn:

• Motion to Adjourn: Leonard

Second: Dave

Close with Lord's Prayer
Next Meeting: 01/08/23

• Devotions: Brad

• Treats: Hailey



Remember in Prayer

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

Adrianne Brown, Penelope Brown, Lori Edwards, Roger Larson, Lynzee Makoski, Shirley Saveraid

Family and Friends of: Bart Mason, Lowell Elliott, Debbie Bollmeyer, Linda Lantz, Ardell Lundgren, Judy Fausch, Norma Dovre, Sara Prochnow Ojard, Joe Curtiss, Nancy (Ness) Weber, Lilah Hurley, Marlys Larsen, Harriet Sheldahl, Abby Huntrods, Marilyn Saveraid, Mary Lou Hoover, Roy Paradise, Anita Brendeland, Bruce Halverson, Kevin Klingbeil, Linda Fausch, Alvina Larson, Warren Johnson, Bev Echtenkamp, Merlin Lyon, Mindy Kahler, Kathy Saveraid



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.



The annual meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2023. Deadline for submitting annual reports is January 3, 2023.

Please email to the church office in word format: palestinelutheran@gmail.com

We will attempt to livestream this meeting so all can be involved.

PALESTINE CHILI COOK-OFF!

The R.O.C.K. Group is hosting the 2nd annual chili cook-off following the annual meeting. Bring a crock pot of your best recipe or just come prepared to sample them all.

Vote for your favorite by placing money in it's jar. Winner will be awarded a personalized champion apron! Proceeds go towards the youth group's mission trip to Costa Rica.





We welcome our new sister in Christ:

Reese Lynn Wuebker (Baptized 12-18-22)

Reese is the daughter of Adam and Molly Wuebker and the sister of Taylor and Brooks. Her baptismal sponsors are Alynn Kruse, Cassandra Reese, and Leon Wuebker







In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. Luke 2:1-20

Merry Christmas, dear church. Elzeluon l. Eat-



January 20-21st: LADIES GETAWAY

You asked for it, and we are doing it! Some recent attendees of our annual Women's Retreat didn't want to wait until September to get together again, so come to camp in January.

What to expect: a relaxed, less-structured time away for you to enjoy the company of other women, connect with the Father, and rest. All activities and lodging will be in the Johnson Retreat Center (so registration is limited). We'll have the fire roaring in the fireplace, arrive Friday evening as you are able. We will have substantial snacks and beverages along with a guided art activity on Friday evening. Saturday will include breakfast and a group devotion. After that, you are welcome to spend as much of the day as you'd like at camp to rest, fellowship, hike, read, journal, crochet/knit, etc. Depart at your leisure anytime Saturday. Leave when you need to leave or stay as long as you'd like.

Who: Adult Women

Dates: Friday, January 20-Saturday, January 21

Price: \$50

REGISTER NOW! Go to www.riversidelbc.org/registration

If you have any questions about the Ladies Getaway, please contact Cheri Schendel-Hennager at Cheri@RiversideLBC.org or 515-733-5271.

January 28th: Family Sledding & Pizza event

Join us for a night of family fun! Hot cocoa, sledding and memories galore.

What you can expect: 2:00-6:00pm - meet at Dining Hall Price: \$10 per person (\$50/family max) (3 and under free) Register TODAY @ www.riversidelbc.org/registration

Plan for a night of FUN with your kids at camp! Sledding, Broom Ball, Rec Hall and Pizza- oh yeah baby! Warm up between outdoor sessions with some hot pizza and hot cocoa. We care about creating space for kids and parents to connect and have a ton of fun together.



January 2023

Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

Amplifying the Voices of Iowa Children and Families

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) works to provide services to Iowa children and families and to share their stories with the community. As a way of amplifying our communities' voices, we invite you to be a part of the annual Lutheran Day on the Hill event.

Join Lutheran Services in Iowa and the three Iowa synods of the ELCA for Lutheran Day on the Hill in Des Moines on March 14, 2023! This day is essential for amplifying the voices of those who are not heard, for seeking social justice and for empowering people to exercise their right and responsibility to be part of the legislative process.

If you are interested in joining LSI for Lutheran Day on the Hill, visit our website at https://lsiowa.org/ldh/. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at 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 LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.



January 2023

Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

A Journey of Overwhelming Joy

After going through fertility treatments and being told they weren't able to have any more kids, Dani and her husband pursued their foster care license in 2015 and have cared for 13 kids since.

"Throughout our journey of being foster parents, we've had many great placements," said Dani. "Our shortest placement lasted five days when we cared for a girl, whose mother was incapable of watching her while she recovered in the hospital, and our longest lasted 18 months."

Dani shared that one of their biggest blessings was having the opportunity to adopt some of the children they fostered. The family adopted their first child at age one, and they had plans to adopt another when the child turned 18 years old.

"Every time our family adopts another child, I get the same feeling of overwhelming joy," said Dani. "I feel like any expectant mom – not being able to contain my joy when their adoption comes up, and telling everyone I know about it."

Dani shared that it is hard to explain the full impact fostering — and the lows and highs it brings — has had on her family. "We've cried, stressed and lost a lot of sleep. We loved, laughed and had so many firsts," said Dani. "But I still tell everyone who is considering being a foster parent to do it. It's a roller coaster, but so worth it."

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