



November 3rd, 2024 All Saints Sunday

Reaching Out in Christian Love to All 1375 Highway 210 P.O. Box 189 Huxley, IA 50124

Pastor: Eric Klimpel

Pastor's Email: ericklimpel@gmail.com
Pastor's Office: 515-597-2620
Pastor's cell phone: 936-444-3895

Youth Liaison: Nels Dovre Secretary's Office: 515-597-2624

Church Email: palestinelutheran@gmail.com
Church Website: www.plchuxley.com

All Saints Sunday Sunday, November 3rd, 2024

Of all three years of the lectionary cycle, this year's All Saints readings have the most tears. Isaiah and Revelation look forward to the day when God will wipe away all tears; in John's gospel, Jesus weeps along with Mary and all the gathered mourners before he demonstrates his power over death. On All Saints Day we celebrate the victory won for all the faithful dead, but we grieve for our beloved dead as well, knowing that God honors our tears. We bring our grief to the table and find there a foretaste of Isaiah's feast to come.

*=Stand as you are able **Bold Print** = congregation responds **ELW**=Red Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Prelude Ringing of the Bell

GATHERING The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

*Remembrance of All Saints Day

Let us remember all the saints before God.

We praise and bless you, O holy Trinity. You have taught your church that it is an ageless communion of saints. We thank you for gathering those who faithfully waited in hope for the redemption you promised, and now for adding us who celebrate the love of your Christ for the redemption of the world. Prepare a place for us among those who are already with you. Help us remember them as an encouragement to saintly living, exciting us to love, in anticipation of an eternal reunion.

Christ says, Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart,

and you will find rest for your souls.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

And you will find rest for your souls.

"Shall We Gather at the River" *GATHERING SONG **ELW 423**

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899; Music: Robert Lowry; public domain.



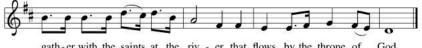
- 1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
- 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
- ev 'ry bur den down; 3 Ere we reach the shin-ing riv - er, lay we 4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv - er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;



with its crys-tal tide for-ev - er flow-ing by the throne of God? we will walk and wor-ship ev - er, all the hap-py gold - en day. grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro-vide a robe and crown. soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy peace.



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful



gath-er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

*GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love

you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:6-9

Isaiah sees a vision of the end of days, when God will gather all people on God's holy mountain and will prepare for them a rich feast. At this banquet God will wipe the tears from all eyes. And there will be no more sorrow, for God will destroy death itself.

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; ⁸he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GoD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,

for the LORD has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day,

Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6a

Here is a vision of the new heaven and new earth in which God resides fully with God's people so that mourning, despair, and pain have been eradicated. These renewing words from the God who spans all of time are trustworthy and true.

¹I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away."

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ^{6a}Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

page 151



GOSPEL: John 11:32-44

The Holy Gospel according to John the 11th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Through the raising of Lazarus, Jesus offers the world a vision of the life to come, when death and weeping will be no more.

³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kids singing

Children will leave to go to Children's Church

Preschool/Kindergarten – room beside nursery in north fellowship hall

1st & 2nd grade - Upstairs to the left

3rd & 4th grades – Upstairs to the left

5th & 6th grades – Downstairs

HYMN OF THE MONTH: "All That We Have" W&P 5

Text: Gary Ault; Music: Gary Ault; arr. Gary Daigle; Text and music © 1969, 1979 Danean Music, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net 1-708142 All rights reserved.



SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY:

"Borning Cry"

ELW 732

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937; Music: John C. Ylvisaker; Text and music © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker; Reprinted under OneLicense.net 1-708142 All rights reserved.



- 1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.
 2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
- 3 "In the mid-dle a ges of your life, not too old, no lon ger young,



I re-joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un-fold, you were raised to praise the liv-ing Lord, to whom you now be-long. I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what Γ ve be-gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;

If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,

When the eve-ning gent-ly clos-es in and you shut your wea-ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."
I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re-joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold."

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rooted in God's abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Response: Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation marks the completion of the congregation's program of confirmation ministry, a period of instruction in the Christian faith as confessed in the teachings of the Lutheran Church. Those who have completed this program were made members of the Church in Baptism. Confirmation includes a public profession of the faith into which the candidates were baptized, thus underscoring God's action in their Baptism.

Affirmation of Baptism

Aubrey Shay Lewis

(Sponsors are Nathan Buss, Amy Crabbs)
Born February 22, 2010
Baptized April 25, 2010
First Communion July 19, 2020

A sponsor or another representativ	e of the	congregation	presents
those making affirmation.			

I present	, who desires to make public
affirmation of their baptism.	

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters and brothers, who you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

Profession of Faith

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God? *Response:* I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God? *Response:* I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God? *Response:* I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, And he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, The holy catholic church, The communion of saints, The forgiveness of sins, The resurrection of the body, And the life everlasting.

Affirmation in the Presence of the Assembly
Faith Readings – Each one called up individually with parent and sponsors

Individual blessings

Stir up in _____ the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Presiding minister to confirmands:

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

To live among God's faithful people,

To hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

To serve all people, following the example of Jesus, And to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Response: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Presiding minister to congregation:

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

Response: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy spirit; the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING OFFERING HYMN:

"Battle Belongs"

Sr. Choir

AUTHORS Brian Johnson, Phil Wickham; CCLI SONG #7148126; COPYRIGHTS Phil Wickham Music (Fair Trade Music Publishing [c/o Essential Music Publishing LLC]); Simply Global Songs (Fair Trade Music Publishing [c/o Essential Music Publishing LLC]); Bethel Music Publishing; Reprinted under CCLI #2551458

*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

*DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

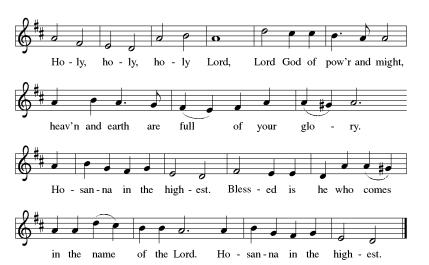
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the witness of your saints you show us the hope of our calling and strengthen us to run the race set before us, that we may delight in your mercy and rejoice with them in glory. And so, with all the saints,

with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn: Page 153



*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

*LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet for all is now ready.

If you wish to kneel at the rail after accepting communion to pray, feel free to go up and then exit via the side aisles as normal.

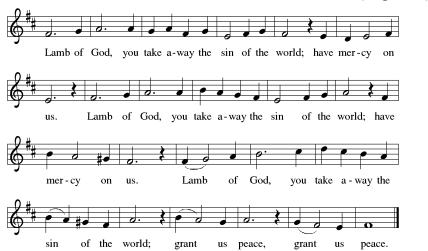
COMMUNION

Holy Communion Distribution for Today

- 1. Individual confirmand with family and sponsors commune at the rail individually first (stand if necessary)
- Congregation will either commune in their seats with prepackaged wafer and cups (dispose in trash after worship), or come forward via center aisle to commune after the confirmands and their families
- 3. Wafer or gluten free wafer available center ring is grape juice, outer rings are wine
- 4. If you are not communing, then come forward for a blessing from the pastor

COMMUNION SONG

(Page 154)



COMMUNION HYMNS:

"For All the Saints"

ELW 422

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897; Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958; Outside USA: Music from The English Hymnal, © Oxford University Press 1906; Reprinted under OneLicense.net 1-708142 All rights reserved.

For All the Saints



AUTHORS Andraé Crouch; **CCLI SONG** #11249; **COPYRIGHTS** 1971 Bud John Songs, Inc. (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); Crouch Music Corp. (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); **Reprinted under** CCLI #2551458



"Blest Are They"

ELW 728

Text: David Haas, b. 1957; Music: David Haas; Text and music © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted under OneLicense.net 1-708142 All rights reserved.



*TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

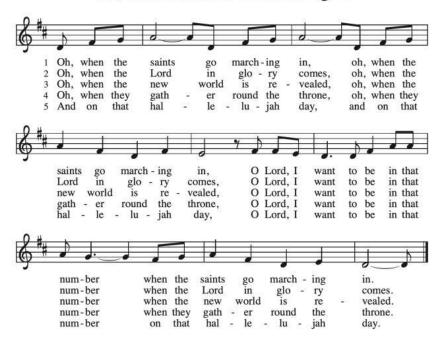
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

* SENDING SONG "Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In" ACS 950

Text: African American spiritual; Music: African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version; Arr. © 2020 Augsburg Fortress; Reprinted under OneLicense.net 1-708142 All rights reserved.

Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In



Children are dismissed to go downstairs for:





ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Ringing of the Bell Postlude

For streaming and printing:

Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS025376.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. OneLicense A708142 and CCLI #2551458

Those Serving in Today's Service

Pastor: Eric Klimpel Accompanist: Mindy DeVries

Youth Liaison: Nels Dovre Lector: Deb Moore

Acolytes: Noelle Hartsook, Eden Richter

Technicians: Brent Emerson, Brayden DeVries, Owen Williams

This Week at Palestine

Today, November 3rd, 2024 All Saints Sunday

8:00 a.m. Council Meeting

8:30 a.m. Choir

9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion

Music with Nels

Tuesday, November 5th, 2024

10:00 a.m. Rock Creek Worship (Pastor)

7:00 p.m. Bible Study via Zoom

Wednesday, November 6th, 2024

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study

1:00 p.m. Quilters

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

Saturday, November 9th, 2024

5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Kumla

Sunday, November 10th 25th Sunday of Pentecost

8:30 a.m. Choir

9:30 a.m. Worship

Music with Nels

Lectionary texts: 1 Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:24-28;

Mark 12:38-44

Thank you for your Gifts for Ministry:

Sunday, October 27, 2024: Attendance: 140
General: \$1,639.00 Benevolence: \$20

THANK YOU!!! We celebrate your generosity and thank you in

advance for your support.



Palestine will accept your offering!

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

Palestine Lutheran Church

PO BOX 189

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.

Text GIVE to 515-207-6435.

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



Festival of All Saints Day November 3rd

Have a candle ready to light at home if you are viewing via livestream

We will be remembering the faithful who have departed their life and have now taken their places among the members of the Church Triumphant in the past 24 months. During the Prayers of Intercession Pastor will read from a shepherd's book names that have been submitted. He has used this book on each All Saints' Sunday during his ministry.

All Saints Sunday—Sunday, November 3, 2024



On this All Saints Sunday we commemorate the faithful who have departed their life and have now taken their places among the members of the Church Triumphant. We recognize the those (in the last two years) and have committed to God's eternal care and keeping the following:

Shirley Saveraid	06/30/1930 - 02/19/2023
Charles Bowers	09/25/1940 - 06/14/2023
Helen Miller	11/16/1928 - 07/12/2023
Dixie Hillebo	06/29/1939 - 08/08/2023
Diane Larson	10/25/1946 - 08/21/2023
Elaine Paradise	05/01/1933 - 10/08/2023
Sally Greve	02/25/1939 - 06/25/2024
Roger Larson	07/18/1948 - 07/19/2024



We also celebrate those who have joined the communion of saints through their baptism in Christ Jesus and are members of the Church on earth. Since last All Saints' Day, the following have been baptized in our congregation:

Victor Marshall Schaudt

Baptized 4/7/2024

Bennett Ludwig

Baptized 4/28/2024

Brynlee Saltzman

Baptized 5/5/2024

Samuel Argueta

Baptized 9/8/2024

May Christ the King be their eternal light and joy.



Faith Statement By Aubrey Lewis

Who is God to me? How do I know God is with me during my life? How will faith grow in my life?

Before confirmation, I didn't really think much about it. It was like every other church group. Yet, every Wednesday night, we would talk about a new topic, and we would really go into depth about it. It would make you question a lot of things about God and your faith. We would talk about what it means to believe in God, what examples of sins are, forgiving others, the commandments, and so much more. Being in confirmation allowed me to create a relationship with God and what it means to have faith. I have also become much closer and created a bond with the people in my two different confirmation classes considering I was with the same people every Wednesday and Sunday.

The phrase "do not be afraid" is repeated numerous times in the bible, and the verse that stuck out to me the most using this phrase is Joshua 1:9 "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; Do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go"

Something that I have learned that makes your life a lot easier when you are afraid is to hand over that fear to God. I have been afraid many times in my life whether it's learning a new dive, taking a test, getting results back from injuries, getting dry needled, going on a rollercoaster, when there is a tornado or thunderstorm, going on a plane overseas, meeting new people, competing at a meet, and so many more things. There is not a day that goes by that there is something that I am not afraid of. But when I am able to hand that fear over to God, and I face that fear knowing God is with me, everything turns out okay. The more that I have turned to God, the more that my life has gotten easier.

Throughout confirmation, I have turned more to God than I did before confirmation. Confirmation has really helped me grow my relationship with God, and R.O.C.K will continue to grow my faith. I couldn't have grown in my faith without Pastor Eric, Brent, and Nels. I am so glad I was able to get the opportunity to be a part of confirmation and I love being a part of the Palestine Church Family.



Congratulations to our confirmand!



SURVEY - WE NEED AT LEAST 10 RESPONSES!

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is sponsoring a survey as a part of the Faith Communities Today (FACT) research initiative that the ELCA regularly participates in. Since 2000, FACT has conducted research that provides religious leaders of all traditions with critical information about the changing nature of congregational life and how to respond effectively.

All worship attenders (age 18 or older) of your congregation are invited to take this survey. It will take 12-15 minutes to complete.

Please click the link below and take the short 15-20 minutes. We have until Nov. 22 to collect as many as possible.

This link will appear on weekly Wednesday e-news, bulletins, etc. Please look for it.

https://covidreligionstudy.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9GYI89a3NMOwu Fw?congregation=20245

IT'S ALMOST KUMLA TIME!



Jello salads, desserts, and volunteering in the kitchen are all requested. See the sign-up sheet in fellowship hall or watch the Wednesday email announcements to click on the sign-up link!



GET READY FOR KUMLA!

Saturday, November 9th





Poinsettias for Palestine

You are invited to purchase a poinsettia to help decorate our church for advent and Christmas. Please let us know if it is in honor or memory of someone. \$20 each.



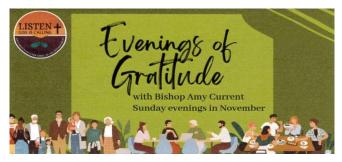
<u>Deadline to order is November 15th</u>. Call Blumsters @ 515-597-2200 or Tracy @ 515-450-1961 to place order.



Family Christmas Wreath Making @ Palestine Monday, November 25th.

RSVP and pay \$40 after worship. Only 25 spots available.

Soup and snacks @ 5:30 p.m. Wreath making @ 6:00 p.m. Supervised kids' room with craft available.



November 3 Peace Lutheran Church @ Pella

November 10 Christ the King Lutheran Church @ Iowa City

November 17 Trinity Lutheran Church @ Pleasant Valley

November 24 Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd @ Des Moines

No RSVP is needed and all are welcome! All events are 4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.



Community Thanksgiving Worship Sunday, November 24th @ Trinity Methodist in Huxley

- 6 p.m. Soup supper with pie dessert (sign up forthcoming)
- 7 p.m. Worship

Our offerings for this event will go to help support a very needy local food pantries in Huxley, Cambridge, and Slater. Sponsored by the Ballard Ministerial Association.

K.I.C.K. UPCOMING EVENTS

All 3rd-6th graders are invited to participate in this group.



- Sunday, November 3rd: Singing during church worship; Thanksgiving craft after worship
- Saturday, November 9th: Kumla Dinner Serving watch your email and Facebook group for serving slot sign-ups 4:30 -7.
- Wednesday, November 13th: Senior Tea Ornament/Gift Making @ 6 p.m. Meal provided. Christmas program scripts/parts assigned.

Welcome to Worship! We're glad you're here (physically or virtually), guests and members alike, and pray that you will find in our worship an opportunity to praise God and hear God's Word.

All baptized Christians who believe that Christ Jesus is truly present in the sacrament to forgive, strengthen and bless us, are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Grief Unbound (based on John 11)

We get so much emotive action in this All Saints gospel! There is weeping and more weeping. There is deep regret, "what ifs," and "if onlys." We hear how deeply loved Lazarus was, and even Jesus is moved in body and spirit.

Grief is a full-body experience, and it is comforting to know that our God, in the form of Jesus—completely human and completely divine—fully understands this. Death stinks—there is no getting around it. Death stinks for the loved ones left behind, and decay ("Lord, already there is a stench") signals a finality to all living things.

And yet . . . All Saints Day is a time when we celebrate the finite human existence and how resurrection shows up beyond this. Jesus declares to Lazarus's loved ones, "Unbind him and let him go," resurrecting Lazarus back to life. During All Saints worship, we remember our loved ones who have died, and we hold fast to Jesus' proclamation of resurrection for them. Death is no longer the end of their story, or ours. Jesus has promised eternal life and a love that goes beyond any tomb we find ourselves trapped in.

All Saints Day is a time when you do not have to pretend that everything is okay. Grief is a part of the human experience, and it is a messy, smelly, loud, and overwhelming ride. May you know that no matter where you are on this day, God shows up next to you, weeping and disturbed. There is no stench that keeps God away.

May you know that your grief is holy. May you also know that this grief is not the end of your loved one's story or yours. Someday we shall be unbound. Someday we shall be whole. Someday all shall be well.