



The Palestine Press

December 2015

Volume XXIX Number 12

Monthly newsletter of

Palestine Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

(515) 597-2620, office

(515) 597-2624, secretary's office

E-mail address: PLC@huxcomm.net

Fax: 515/597-2621

Web site: www.plchuxley.com

Pastor Eric Klimpel

Nels Dovre, Youth Liaison

Oriett Snider, Editor

Christa Hartsook, Webmaster

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."

Unwrapping the Gift of Immanuel.....With Pastor Eric

*If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses... ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, **I am there among them.**"*
Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus declared that **where two or three are gathered together in his name. He would be right there among them.** He made this declaration in the context of a difficult situation. The question came up about what a disciple should do when someone in the community sins against them. Well, Jesus responds first and foremost by getting the two parties together to work it out. And if that does not work, then bring an impartial witness to verify and help with the listening process. He wants us to keep at it and leave "no stone un-turned!" Take a friend, take a "timeout"... whatever you need to help reconcile with your brother, sister, parent, child, friend.

I have experienced many a stressful holiday when the best and worst of family dynamics has shown forth...sometimes for the entire world to see and hear. I find it challenging to provide an environment where people can truly share their feelings, ideas and anxieties without wariness and fear of judgement. After all...we love our neighbors and friends and we hesitate to share our innermost thoughts and opinions because we do not want to hurt them, or hurt ourselves.

Over these months of fall, our leadership has tried to promote "mutual conversation and consolation" about faith and life. We hope that families have had opportunities for sacred conversations in an atmosphere of forgiveness, truth and love. We have begun forums in community fashion which touch upon issues of a personal and corporate nature. When the difficult decisions need to happen, we want to be ready to listen and appreciate what we hear in an atmosphere of respect and safety.

I would like to share with you again some aspects of what a safe environment for conversation looks like, in both the home and at church:

What is needed for an environment of safe conversation?

1. Fundamental respect for other people as redeemed children of God despite differing convictions
2. Explicit rejection of verbal condemnation or dismissal because of differing convictions

How do we disagree well within a safe environment?

1. **Being fair.** Can you state the position of the person whom you disagree with accurately enough that the other person recognizes your statement as their own?
2. **Being realistic about my position.** Can you acknowledge where your position is most vulnerable and where a contrasting position makes valid points?
3. **Being honestly humble.** Can I think through my position, express it with true conviction, AND acknowledge that as a fallen and flawed human being I may be wrong.

I have the most difficult time with "honest humility." Is it more important that I be "right" or that I be in "relationship"? God demonstrates that relationship trumps being right which is why Jesus came to live among us – as one of us! Let our Christmas gift to one another be a safe environment to share truth in love and listen with compassion both at home and church.

Let us pray. Gracious God, open our hearts and our minds to your grace and open our ears to listen and our mouths to speak truth in love and our arms to shake hands and give hugs, so that we might embody the forgiveness and love which you give to us in Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Holiday Family Devotions for Advent and Christmas Season

You can explore as a family the meaning, activities and prayers for the seasons of the spirit and soul. An insert is included in this newsletter. A color version is available on line www.plchuxley.com , under the calendar/forms button.

Palestine Lutheran Church 2015

Advent Sundays – 9:30 a.m.

Blessing of Advent Wreath (Nov 29)

Blessing of the Nativity (Dec 6)

Blessing of the Christmas Trees (Dec 13)

Affirmation of Baptism (Dec 20)

Christmas Celebrations

Palestine Christmas Extravaganza presented by ROCK ***(Dec 12) 10 am – 2 pm***

Seniors Christmas Tea (Dec 13) 11:30 am

Blue Christmas Service (Dec 15) 6:30 p.m.
At Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Slater, Iowa

Christmas Caroling (Dec 16) 6-8 p.m.

Christmas Program (Dec 21) – 4:30 p.m.
T'was the Night Before

Christmas Eve (Dec 24)

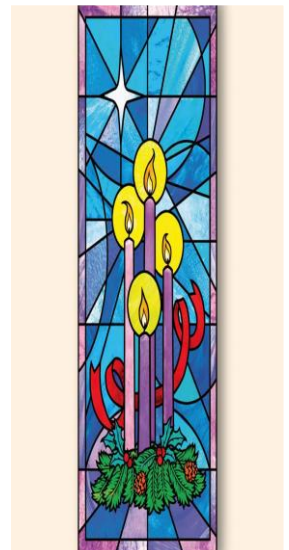
2 p.m. Christmas Eve Senior Service
At Ballard Creek, Huxley, Iowa

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service

Christmas Day (Dec 25) – 9:00 a.m.
At Nazareth Lutheran Church, Cambridge, Iowa

Christmas Hymn-fest (Dec 27) – 9:30 a.m.

Epiphany "3Kings" Sunday (Jan 3) – 9:30





Palestine Lutheran Church

Worship & Study Opportunities- December 2015

Call in number to listen to worship services: 597-3994
[Please be sure to put your phone on mute or sounds from your home will be carried to all phones that have dialed in for the service.]

Wednesday, December 2

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

6:15-8 p.m. Christmas Program Practice (3rd-6th grades)

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

Saturday, December 5

7 a.m. Tri County Men's Bible study @ Ballard Creek

Sunday, December 6 2nd Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Worship: Holy Communion

Baptism of Aldo Charles Medici IV

Blessing of Advent Wreath – Light candle 2

Blessing of the Nativity

10:45 a.m. Sunday School

Monday, December 7

2 p.m. Women of ELCA Bible study

Wednesday, December 9

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

6:15-8 p.m. Christmas Program Practice (3rd – 6th grades)

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

Saturday, December 12

7 a.m. Tri County Men's Bible study @ Ballard Creek

Sunday, December 13 3rd Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Worship:

Blessing of Advent Wreath – Light candle 3

Blessing of Christmas Trees – light trees

10:45 a.m. Sunday School

Christmas Program Practice (preschool – 2nd grade)

11:30 a.m. Senior Christmas Tea

Monday, December 14

6:15-8 p.m. Christmas Program Practice (3rd-6th grade)

DRESS REHEARSAL

Tuesday, December 15

6:30 p.m. Blue Christmas Service

@ Bethlehem Lutheran, Slater

Wednesday, December 16

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

6-8 pm Christmas Caroling

Saturday, December 19

7 a.m. Tri County Men's Bible study @ Ballard Creek

Sunday, December 20 4th Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Worship: Holy Communion

Baptism of Hayden & Logan DeHaven

Blessing of Advent Wreath – Light Candle 4

Affirmation of Baptism

10:45 a.m. Sunday School; Town Hall/Adult Forum

10:45 a.m. – 12 noon Christmas Program Practice

(preschool -6th grade)

4:30 p.m. Christmas Program – “T’was the Night Before”

Wednesday, December 23

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

NO Confirmation (on break)

Thursday, December 24 Christmas Eve

3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Senior Service @ Ballard Creek

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Candlelight Worship

Friday, December 25 Christmas Day

9:00 a.m. Worship @ Nazareth Lutheran Church,
Cambridge

Saturday, December 26

7 a.m. Tri County Men's Bible study @ Ballard Creek

Sunday, December 27 1st Sunday of Christmas

9:30 a.m. Worship: Lessons and Carols with Communion

NO Sunday School

Wednesday, December 30

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

NO Confirmation (on break)

Daily Discipleship **themes which will be used for Wed. morning Men's Bible study (uses the text for the following Sunday). They are available on the ELCA website –**

www.elca.org → Resources → Downloadable Resources → Bible Studies

December 6 Second Sunday of Advent

Primary Text: Luke 3:1-6

Imperatives of Discipleship: *Prepare!*

December 13 Third Sunday of Advent

Primary Text: Luke 3: 7-18

Imperatives of Discipleship: *Bear Fruit!*

December 20 4th Sunday of Advent

Primary Text: Luke 1:39-55

Imperatives of Discipleship: *Rejoice!*

December 27 1st Sunday of Christmas

Primary Text: Luke 2:41-52

Imperatives of Discipleship: *Increase in Wisdom*

January 3 2nd Sunday of Christmas

Primary Text: John 1:10-18

Discipleship: *Grace upon Grace*

NOTE: The Town Hall/Adult Forum originally scheduled for December 13th is being rescheduled to December 20th.

KICK (grades 3- 6)

Kids in Christ's Kingdom:

Our group had a lot of fun helping serve at the Kumla dinner this year!

Thanks to our kids helping with church service November 15th!

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM REHEARSALS (3-6th grade) all at the church:

Sunday, November 29th 6:30 - 8

Wednesday, December 2nd 6:15 - 8 (dinner 6:15 - 6:30)

Sunday, December 6th 6:30 - 8

Wednesday, December 9th 6:15 - 8 (dinner 6:15-6:30)

Monday, December 14th 6:15 - 8 (dinner 6:15 - 6:30)

DRESS REHEARSAL

Sunday, December 20th Sunday school time until noon

We may not need all of these rehearsals - we will let you know if we cancel one!

Preschool - 2nd grade rehearsal:

Sunday, December 13th during Sunday School time

Sunday, December 20th Sunday School time until noon

(but we may be done with them early, so please still arrive by 11:30)

Songs to practice: 1) "Away in the Manger" first two versus - pull up youtube video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sxT_WXA3azI for

words and actions 2) "Oh, what a special night" - pull up youtube video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3DD6R4tLg9Y> and

3) our ending song "Born is the King" -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7i9US-qbeJE>

Christmas program Sunday, December 20th 4:30 p.m.

with dinner afterwards. All program participants preschool through 6th grade are asked to sign up to bring something for the dinner.

Wednesday, December 16th Christmas Caroling 6 - 8



p.m. Meet at the church with a small flashlight. Feel free to wear Christmas scarves, silly hats, elf ears/glasses, etc. to make it festive with our winter coats! **Sign up required in fellowship hall.**

Contact any KICK advisor with any questions/concerns:

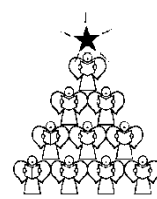
Jody Calvert 515-451-3332 jodycalvert18@gmail.com

Lesa Lewis 515-669-3131 lesalewis5@gmail.com

Lori Schonhorst 515-321-2833 ljshonhorst@gmail.com

The confirmation class will be hosting the supper after the Christmas program.

Angel Tree 2015 - ROCK will be sponsoring the Angel



Tree project as part of the Ballard Clothes Pantry Wishing Tree. ROCK invites the congregation to help to fill wishes found on angel ornaments/gift tags on the tree which will be up Monday, November 23rd in Fellowship Hall. Items are to be left

unwrapped with the ornament/gift tag taped to the item. All items will need to be at church by Sunday, December 13th. If anyone has questions about this project they can contact Kari Sandquist!

ROCK presents

Palestine Lutheran Church

CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

COOKIE EXTRAVAGANZA!

Saturday, December 12th | 10am - 2pm

\$5 • \$10 • \$12 • \$20

Cookie Boxes

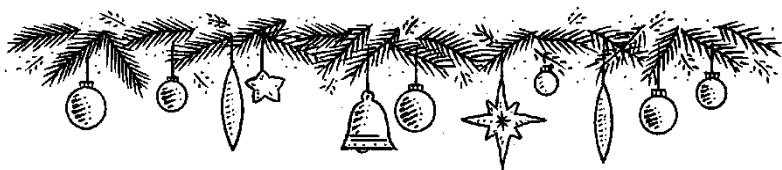
→*** Along with Independent Vendors ***→

Jamerry Nails
Thirty-One
Stella & Dot Jewelry
Scentsy
Homemade Cards by Cindy Vandenburg
Lulu Avenue Jewelry
Homemade Scarves by Emma Nielson
Up Cycle Creations

The new and improved Palestine Christmas Extravaganza
Saturday, December 12th 10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at church
Help support the ROCK Group and come find Christmas gifts from independent vendors AND of course the Cookie extravaganza will be back!

We will need the congregation to help bring homemade Christmas cookies and treats again so PLEASE sign up on the back table in Fellowship Hall.

ROCK Group to ring bell for Salvation Army on Saturday December 19th at the Ames Hobby Lobby from 11 am – 1 pm *feel free to stop and say hi to the ROCK Group*



Following is a listing of Palestine's members who are 85 or older (denoted with a *), widowed the last 2 years, and/or homebound to some degree, if you wish to send them a Christmas greeting.

Sharon & Chuck Bowers

32310 560th Ave
Huxley, IA 50124

***Anita Brendeland**

15101 NE 14th St
Huxley, IA 50124

***Omar & Valerie Brendeland**

56116 HWY 210
Huxley, IA 50124

***Elinor (Anderson) Christiansen**

Madrid Home
613 West North Street
Madrid, IA 50156

Bev Echtenkamp

3718 NE Cottonwood Lane
Ankeny, IA 50021

***Wanda Halverson**

Ballard Creek, Apt 231
908 N HWY 69
Huxley, IA 50124

***Ruth Hennick**

Windsor Manor, Apt 202
1642 S G Ave
Nevada, IA 50201

***Anna Henryson**

Prairie Crossing Assisted Living
1800 S Dorothy Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

***Warren & Grace Johnson**

30545 560th Ave
Cambridge, IA 50046

***Alvina Larson**

1675 NE 166th Ave
Huxley, IA 50124

***Leona O. Larson**

56800 HWY 210
Cambridge, IA 50046

***Elizabeth Maland**

Ballard Creek, Apt 237
908 N HWY 69

Huxley, IA 50124

***Harold Rittgers**

165 Cardinal Rd
Ames, IA 50010

Katherine Saveraid

33845 585th Ave
Cambridge, IA 50046

***Shirley Saveraid**

1007 320 St
Collins, IA 50056-7503

***Harriet Sheldahl**

108 S 5th Ave
Huxley, IA 50124

Marge Sheldahl

54183 320th St
Huxley, IA 50124

Arlene Wee

Box 100
Huxley, IA 50124



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 20th**. 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.

P.S. Parents please remind your college age student to apply for this scholarship. We wouldn't want to leave someone out because they failed to submit their application.

E-mail: PLC@huxcomm.net

(We will reply when we receive your email so you can be sure that we received your request and that it isn't lost in cyberspace.)

Mailing address: 1375 HWY 210, Huxley, IA 50124



Blumsters on Main is offering Poinsettias for Palestine members. Each single-branch plant with 5-7 blooms is wrapped with foil and a bow at a cost of \$12.00 (tax included). Julie Huxford or Tracy Sheldahl will take your order after worship. (You may

also order a poinsettia by calling Blumsters @ 515/597-2200 or stopping in at the shop.)

A bulletin insert will be published listing those who have given poinsettias. Please indicate when ordering if you are placing the plant in memory of or in honor of someone. The plants will be delivered to church for worship on Sunday, Dec 13.



Thanks to all who made the library committee's "Book Lovers' Bash" a success. Whether you donated books, selected some books, or just enjoyed

chatting with other devoted readers, you helped! Books that were left at the church were taken to 1/2 Price Books in Des Moines and sold. Money from those books enabled the committee to purchase a number of new acquisitions for the church library. Any books that 1/2 Price Books were not interested in, were donated to Goodwill. The November event was such a success, the committee is tentatively planning another book exchange in the spring. Happy reading!

"December is **Dinner for more** month at the food pantry - please donate boxed dinner mixes, such as mac-n-cheese, and complete dinners; rice mixes, pasta mixes, pastas."

Sponsored by Palestine Mission Outreach Committee.

Looking Ahead:

January 3 – Annual Reports are due

January 17 – Annual Meeting



⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" Luke 2:8-14

DECEMBER 2015

Volunteer schedule

Greeters

12/6Brent & Missy Larson
 Greg & Christa Hartsook
 12/13Lora Young
 Robin & Mark Doty
 12/20Diane & Virgil Larson
 Cory & Amy Larson
 12/27Ken & Louise Larson
 Kris & Andrew Polich

Acolytes –

12/6
 12/13
 12/20
 12/27

Lectors -

to be contacted

Ushers

Merle Brendeland, captain	Tim Wilson
Leonard Larson	Cory Larson

Sunday Fellowship

Families who greet also serve beverages for fellowship.

Communion Assistants

to be contacted

Offering Counters

Tom Shelton, Tracy Rhoads, Brent Emerson

Altar Ministry

Holly Twedt

Snow Removal

Nov 30-Dec 6
 Dec 7-13
 Dec 14-20
 Dec 21-27
 Dec 28-Jan 3

Deliver Food Pantry donations for Dec.

Notes from the Council:

Notes from November 22nd discussion:

I have attached a copy of a rough draft of the wedding policy revisions that were discussed (at the end of this newsletter). These are definitely not final wording, but a place to start. We would like more input on the subject...

The parsonage has had several ideas. I would like to suggest that we take a "straw poll" of what everyone's thoughts are -- which ideas should we look into. My gut feeling is that we would like to look into the idea of being a hospitality home for Ballard Creek. This could really serve as part of our overall mission. Another idea that seems to hit home is the "Vicar" idea. This also seems to fit our mission that we liked to support the seminary and their students. So -- if you would like to voice your opinion, please drop a note to Oriett, Pastor or myself on which idea is your favorite

1. Renting out
2. Selling the property
3. Selling the House and keeping the vacant land for parking, garden
4. Leasing 99 years to a business
5. Removing the House and leasing as farm ground
6. Hiring/Educating a Vicar
7. Using as a community Hospitality home, Such as Ballard Creek families
8. Letting a maintenance person use as a home while trading for Maintenance Services
9. Using as a Youth hangout
10. Other -- Ideas are welcome...

All in all, I thought we had a good discussion. We have a nice place to start. It is good that we are talking. I feel that if we can get out ahead of these topics, they will fall into place when needed....

Thanks

Brad

The next Town Hall meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 20 at 10:45 am.

Church Office: 515/597-2620

Fax number: 515/597-2621 Website: www.plchuxley.com

Secretary's Office: 515/597-2624

Church e-mail is: PLC@huxcomm.net

Pastor Eric Klimpel's email: ericklimpel@gmail.com

cell: 936/444-3895

Treasurer's Report

Balance on hand November 15, 2015	
Checking Account	\$ 3,308.80
General Fund	-- 787.12
Designated Funds	
Benevolence	615.00
Improvement	3,058.74
Building Addition	- 1,432.01
Technology	1,300.00
Confirmation Class	373.75
Meals from the Heartland	140.00

Building Addition Loan Update

The principal balance due on the loan is \$16,116.21 after the October 15th payment. The next loan payment of \$5,473.01 is due January 15, 2016.

There's still time...

Thanks to those of you who have so generously supported the ministries of our church through your financial gifts! We are grateful for all that you have offered and for all the good things we've been able to do in Jesus' name because of them. Don't forget that your gifts are tax-deductible but must be received by December 31 to qualify for a 2015 deduction.

December Council Meeting –

Sunday, December 6 @ 6:00 p.m.

Volunteers are still needed for sidewalk snow removal around the church.

Church Council 2015

Pastor Eric Klimpel
President: Brad Lewis Vice President: Mike Thomas
Secretary: Jacob Huxford Treasurer: Deidre Qual
Financial Sec'y: Dick Kepler
Council: Mark Doty

Nels Dovre	Kristin Shelton
Bruce Hartman	Jeff VanPelt
Cynthia Johnson	Matt Williams
Laura Kepler	Lora Young



The Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 17. Deadline for submitting annual reports is January 3 to be sure copies of the report will be available to be picked up on January 10th.

Minutes -- Palestine Lutheran Church Council Meeting

November 1st, 2015 -- Sunday -- 8:00 AM

[not yet approved]

In Attendance : Pastor Eric Klimpel, Dick Kepler, Deidre Qual, Laura Kepler, Matt Williams, Mike Thomas, Bruce Hartman, Cynthia Johnson, Kristin Shelton, Nels Dovre, Jeff Van Pelt, Jake Huxford, Mark Doty and Brad Lewis

Devotions -- Mark Doty

Read Vision and Mission Statements

Goals and Reflections -- To provide the leadership to bridge the next year

- Bishops visit: Decent attendance

Minutes of the previous meetings(s)

- Jeff Van Pelt moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, Bruce Hartman seconded.

Treasurer's Report -- Deidre

The checking account balance: \$927.84 as of November 1, 2015

General account:	\$ -- 2493.48
Benevolence:	435.00
Building Addition:	-- 2019.01
Improvement:	3058.74
Riverside Living Water:	50.00
Conformation Class:	415.75
Technology:	<u>1300.00</u>
Total	\$747.00

As of October 20, 2015 the bank statement balance was \$7415.29

Laura Kepler moved to approve, Kristin seconded it.

Pastor's Report -- Pastor Klimpel

- See his report.

New business:

11. Approve Baptism of Brinley Brooks Dykstra, daughter of Travis and Brooke Dykstra
 - Nels moved to approve the baptism, Jacob seconded.
12. Approve Baptism of Aldo Charles Medici IV, son of Stacey and Aldo Medici.
 - Matt moved to approve the baptism, Mark seconded
13. Approve the new members, Travis and Brooke Dykstra (Avery), Cosandra and Darren DeHaven, Roy and Elaine Paradise, and Troy and Jodi Calvert (Colby, Kiley, and Kinsey)
 - Jeff moved to approve the new members, Bruce seconded it.
14. Caroling -- Tabled

Old Business:

1. Review the Bishop's visit:

- Decent amount of people, want to talk about the wedding policy.
- He was glad to be here, good visit, the approach we are taking is healthy, and gave suggestions on things we could do. Pastor Eric received some more feedback, on how to disagree productively.

2. Nominations Committee -- Go over Ballot with committee, discuss involvement
 - Spoke about how to go about nominating new committee members
 - Need new President and Vice President.
3. Mission Outreach Committee update
 - They met, fall Thank Offering will go to Meals for the Heartland.
4. Senior Choir Director Position
 - Table until next month. Take job description home, think about it and come back next month with questions.
5. Annual Meeting January 17th -- Devotions, ROCK group doing meal afterwards?
 - Nels will do the Devotions for the meeting,
 - Nels says that the ROCK group will do the meal after the meeting.
6. Wedding Policy Discussion
 - Digest and prepare to discuss at December meeting and town-hall meeting.
7. Library Committee update
 - They are doing a book fair
8. Kumla -- November 7th
 - Next Saturday -- Friday is prep day if anyone wants to help.
9. Ministerial Alliance -- November 7th (Meals for the Heartland)
 - Set up around 12:30pm -- 300 volunteers -- 6 lines of food, 36,000 meals will be served.
10. Membership rolls update.
 - Need to update around 10 names. Cynthia volunteered to help.
11. Next town hall meeting November 22nd after church.
 - Continue talking about wedding policy.
 - Start a committee for the kitchen.

Adjourn with Lord's Prayer

Next meeting -- December 6th, 6pm.

December Devotions -- Kristin

Jacob moved to adjourn meeting, Brad seconded



December

Celebrating Their ANNIVERSARY

DECEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 - Rahner, Jill
- 4 - Edwards, Jacey
- 5 - Klimpel, Austin
Young, Travis
- 8 - Bair, Annie
- 10 - Johnson, Leo
- 11 - Hill, Laurie
Mueller, Christy
- 12 - Young, Lora
- 14 - Brendeland, Tucker
- 15 - Williams, Owen
- 17 - Polich, Andrew
- 18 - Halverson, Scott
- 20 - Bair, Samuel
Harleen, Brian
- 21 - Larson, Louise
- 22 - Weikum, John
- 24 - Larson, Whitney
- 25 - Wilson, Tim
- 27 - Sorensen, Marvin
- 28 - Fausch, Cody
Larson, Ben
- 29 - Clark, Max
Rittgers, Harold
Williams, Lucas
- 30 - Brendeland, Christopher
- 31 - Hill, Penn
Jolly, Adaline

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

If your birthday or anniversary was not included or was incorrect, please contact the church office so we can update our records. Thank you.

A Note of Thanks

Thank you to Pastor Eric and our PLC church family for your prayers, concern and encouragement during Ordean's recent illness and recuperation. Your caring definitely makes a difference.

Liz & Ordean



Severe Weather Policy:

When school is canceled because of the weather, all church functions will also be canceled. If weather hits when school is not in session, a message

regarding cancellations will be put on the church answering machine (515/597-2620) and also on our church website www.plchuxley.com. 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.

Special NOTE: Please use your own judgment regarding traveling in severe weather conditions.

Remember in Prayer

The following were included in the Prayers of the Church during November: Darlene Biedermann; Anita Brendeland; Karen Esk; Ordean Johnson; Merlin Lyon; Lorraine Sorensen; Bob Wetzler; the Davis family

- Krishna & his family of India, child sponsored by Palestine's Sunday School students.
- Those impacted by flooding, earthquakes, tsunamis, storms, tornadoes, drought & wild fires.
- Those impacted by terrorist attacks in Paris, Beirut, Egypt and elsewhere in the Middle East, in Nigeria, Kenya, Bangladesh & the Philippines.
- Syrian refugees.

We welcome the newest members of our family of faith...
...received by Holy Baptism on November 8, 2015, **Brinley Brooks Dykstra**.

Brinley is the daughter of **Travis** and **Brooke Dykstra**. She is the sister of **Avery**. Her baptismal sponsors are Tracy Keller and Maggie Dykstra.

We welcome her into the Lord's family as a child of God!

...**Casandra & Darren DeHaven; Travis, Brooke, & Avery Dykstra** and **Roy & Elaine Paradise** who made public affirmation of their baptism on November 8, 2015.

We give thanks for these people whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

We extend our prayers and sincerest Christian sympathy...

...to family and friends of **William "Bill" Thomas** (Mike Thomas' father)

...to family and friends of **Pastor Lenwood Monte**

...to family and friends of **Jim McCasland**

...to family and friends of **Parker Elaine Lande** (newborn daughter of Brittney & Adam Lande, great-granddaughter of Garry & Sandy Wirtz, and great niece of Holly & Wade Twedt) May the risen Lord give his strength & comfort to these families in their time of loss.

We extend our prayers and congratulations to...

...**Melinda & Jason Kam** as they welcome their newborn daughter, **Evelyn Sophia Kam** (born November 17). She is welcomed to the family by proud grandparents Bill & Sandy Harleen and great-grandma Kathy Saveraid. O Lord our God, we thank you for being with this family as they experience the joy of watching new life begin.

Seeking Milestone Ministry Coordinator

Looking for a way to use your time and talents for Palestine?

We are seeking a coordinator for our Milestone Ministry.

Role includes: coordinating recognition of faith milestones, gifts, and communications with Congregation.

Please let Erika Williams (515-229-7897 or erikawllms@gmail.com) or Pastor Eric if you have questions or are interested in the role.

PALESTINE WOMEN OF ELCA

Monday, December 7, 2:00 p.m. Bible Study.

Advent imagining

an advent lesson by Valora K. Starr
In December we have an Advent devotional. Valora K. Starr writes that in connecting Advent and imagination "God gives us the gift of imagining, which gives sight to our faith."

The theme for the December *Gather* magazine is **Advent Imagining**: This Advent, as we wait for Jesus' coming, we prepare our hearts and minds to see what God calls us to do.

In the January-February issue of the *Gather* magazine we begin a four-session Bible study of an exploration of the book of Philippians, written by **E. Louise Williams** and the **Rev. Phyllis N. Kersten**, two regular contributors to *Gather* (and our former publication *Lutheran Woman Today*). Louise and Phyllis wrote the 1990 Women of the ELCA Bible study, "Companions on Your Journey." Phyllis, a retired pastor, lives in a suburb of Chicago, and Louise, executive director emerita of the Lutheran Deaconess Association, lives in Valparaiso, Ind.

"Philippians is a wonderful book," the authors write. "Paul had founded the Christian church in Philippi a number of years before and now writes to encourage them. Even though he is imprisoned, Paul does not seem downcast or discouraged. On the contrary, he thinks his suffering might have positive results for the gospel's continued extension in the world."

CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP 101

Session 1 Confidence in God's Beginnings and Endings
(Philippians 1:1-26)

Session 2 Servant-Shaped Soldiers
(Philippians 1:27-2:18)

Session 3 Being of One Mind (Philippians 2:19-4:3)

Session 4 Keep On Keeping On (Philippians 4:4-23)



**Senior Member
Christmas Event
Sunday, December 13
11:30 a.m. short
program followed by
light lunch**

Community Events - Check bulletin board & counter in Fellowship Hall for additional announcements & information.



Christmas with Wartburg

The performance will be at Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines on Friday, Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m.

Christmas with Wartburg is a traditional celebration that provides a fitting opportunity for Wartburg, as a college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, to proclaim the Good News of Christ's birth in word and song. Tickets are \$18.50 starting Monday, Nov. 2 at [Café Hope](http://CafeHope) or online at www.wartburg.edu/christmas. Tickets are selling quickly so get your ticket soon.

This is a wonderful opportunity to enter into the Advent and Christmas seasons.



Ballard Community Band & Chorus Concert

Sunday, December 6, 2015 at 2 p.m. in the Ballard High School Auditorium.



If you or your group would like to **volunteer to wrap Christmas presents** for the **Madrid Home** residents starting December 14th, please contact Kacie Purl at the Madrid Home at (515) 795-3007.

You can wrap gifts between 8 am and 4 pm and wrapping will continue until December 18th or until all the gifts are wrapped. If you would rather volunteer during the evening, please contact Kacie to arrange a time. If you have questions, see Deb Moore or Doreen Blackmer, Madrid Home reps from Palestine.

Kumla Dinner at Ballard Creek – December 7

Serving Begins at 11:30 a.m. Reservations preferred
Call 515-597-2555

Free will offering, but suggested price is \$6/meal

A Note of Thanks

Mange Tusen Takk (Many Thousand Thanks) to everyone who helped to make this year's kumla supper on November 7th a success! Special thanks to our Kumla coordinators, the potato peelers, Kumla ball makers, servers, hostesses, diners, dish washers, those who set up & those who cleaned up, and the many who shared salads, desserts, roasters, and decorations. Thanks to the KICK group (and parents) for the great job you did serving the Kumla supper! Many people commented on how helpful you were.

"To Know Christ and to make Christ known to all."



Riverside Christmas Party

We are having our annual Christmas Party at Riverside on December 6th! Come join us as

we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ! We will be kicking things off at 6:00 pm in the Dining Hall and will be done by 8:00 pm. We will have hot-cocoa, wagon rides around camp (dress warm!), carols to sing, Christmas crafts, games, and so much more!

This is a free event for all ages, so come with friends and families for a wonderful evening at the Riverside Christmas Party. We look forward to seeing you there!

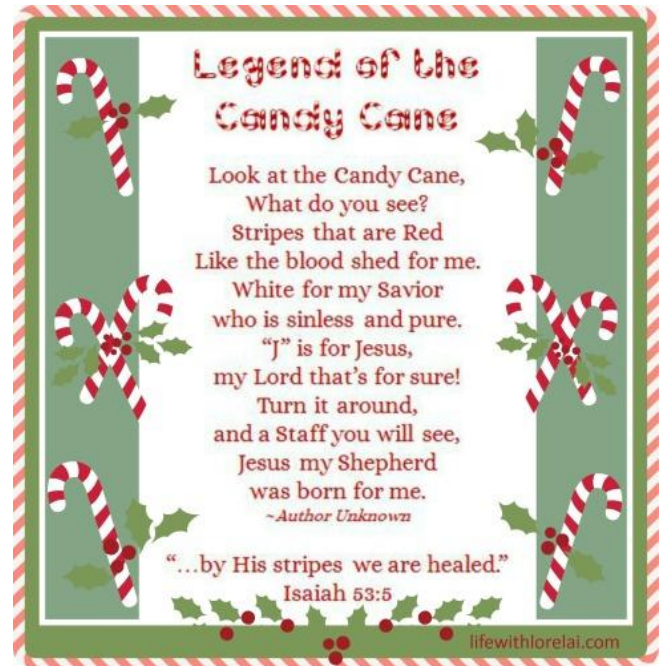
Make a Difference 2016

It's hard to believe, but summer 2016 is fast approaching! We have already started receiving applications from folks interested in working at Riverside for next summer, but we are still seeking plenty more. If you know a high school or college-aged person who loves Jesus, loves kids, and wants to make a difference by advancing the Kingdom, then encourage them to check out our [website](#) to find more information on what it looks like to be a counselor at Riverside and to find an application.

The deadline to apply is February 1st, which will be here before we know it. Join us in praying for God to bring together a staff that is committed to knowing Jesus Christ, and making Christ known to all.

Upcoming Events

Dec. 6 - [Riverside Christmas Party](#)
Jan. 23 - Mother-Son Pizza and Game Night
Feb. 20 - Daddy-Daughter Dance



Annual Craft & Bake Sale

Dorcas Hall (downtown Cambridge)

Saturday, December 5

9 am – 1 pm

Sponsored by Nazareth Lutheran Church

**Holiday Babysitting
So You Can Shop!**

**Saturday,
December 12**

10 am – 3 pm

**Games, movies,
crafts, & fun!**

Macaroni and Cheese lunch will be served!

Nazareth Lutheran Church, 517 Vine Street

Free Will Offering \$



(Adults are in attendance; teens will be there, too)

The Lutheran – The current issue of the Lutheran is available on the table in Fellowship Hall. Coming up in the December edition of *The Lutheran*:

Favorites. Readers were asked to submit reflections on their favorite Bible characters and stories. Read a sampling of the responses in *The Lutheran*'s December issue. And ask, "Who in the Bible are you?" To help your discussion of this cover story, visit www.thelutheran.org and click on "Study guides" on the left-hand side.

The unsettled season. In her December column for *The Lutheran*, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton reflects on Advent. In some ways, the season creates a certain restlessness, she says. But in the incarnate Christ, God comes to us, finds us and gives our restless hearts rest.

He is born! In the December issue of *The Lutheran*, reflect on the season by reading "Put a candle in the window." Learn how a congregation decorates on a shoestring budget in "Starry Advent night." Meet Fred, whose gifts started a Christmas tradition. And discover sustainable ways to observe and cherish the season.

Think about it. *The Lutheran* is a resource for adult forums and individual study. In the December issue, discuss "Blessing" with columnist Peter Marty, who says it's not a privilege—it confers responsibility. Go deeper into the Lord's Prayer with an ELCA theologian. And discuss gun violence and how your congregation can bring peace back to communities (to help your discussion of this article, visit www.thelutheran.org for a study guide—click on "Study guides" on the left-hand side).

God's work. In the December issue of *The Lutheran*, read about Lutherans at work in the world: travel to Texas where immigrants receive "A radical welcome" ... meet a woman who makes dolls that look just like their owners ... see how Lutheran agencies help match children with loving families ... visit Tanzania, where Lutherans support schools for children with disabilities ... and think about celebrating "bold women" or sharing your good news.

Online. Visit *The Lutheran*'s website at www.thelutheran.org for your research & study needs. Find more than 11,500 archived articles & over 400 study guides.

Coming up in future issues of *The Lutheran*:

- **January cover story:** A playful look at cleaning out the congregational closet for the new year and moving in new directions—what can go, what should stay, what needs to be added.
- **All aboard:** Augsburg College launches a "River Semester."
- **Let's talk:** Congregations in Texas have conversations on racism.
- **Finances:** Top financial resolutions for congregations in the new year.
- **Wednesday Night Live:** Iowa congregation has hosted after-school event for 30 years.
- **How-to:** Ways to use yoga to benefit your health and spiritual life.
- **February cover story:** Multicultural congregations.



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 for you! Every day, as a ministry partner of LSI, you help bring the light of Christ to others.

At LSI, we know many people experiencing deep darkness. We know adults with disabilities who have no caring family presence in their lives. We know families in Des Moines who spent twenty years living in refugee camps and are finally regaining some hope for the future. We know teens who are aging out of the foster care system and fear they will never belong to anyone or have a family to love them. LSI's work is Christmas work, shining love, compassion and light in places of darkness, despair, abuse, neglect, addiction and crisis. We could not do this important work without you, and we are so grateful.

Wishing you a blessed and merry Christmas from LSI! *LSI is proud to be an affiliated social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).* Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Monique Finds A Place for Hope

On a rainy morning, the radiant laughter and smiles of two young sisters fill the room. "My daughters are very energetic," said their mom Monique, with a tired smile. Monique began partnering with LSI's HOPES (Healthy Opportunities for Parents to Experience Success) when her oldest daughter was just a couple months old. I was a first time mom and young. I was so scared I would be the worst mom possible," Monique said.

When parents enroll in HOPES, they are connected with a family support worker who visits them in their home to offer parenting support, track child development and help families achieve their goals. "The people at HOPES are my family. I couldn't tell you where I'd be without them," Monique said.

Monique was struggling to provide for herself without a high school diploma, adequate transportation or family support.

"She was kicked out of her house and has been on her own since she was a teen," said Linda, an LSI supervisor. "She was forced to grow up really fast. She had to sink or swim, and she chose to swim."

With support from LSI, Monique earned her GED and went immediately into CNA (certified nursing assistant) classes. Today, Monique needs less support than she once did, but LSI is still there to provide a listening ear and guidance. Her family is now happy, healthy and thriving with optimism for the future.

"Our futures look very bright. My new goals are to go back to school, work on buying a house, and get my kids into a really good school. Because of LSI, my family will succeed in life."

Palestine Lutheran Church Wedding Policy Proposed Revisions

Changes in the wording are bolded in the proposed revisions. The current policy (approved July 1998. Amended May 14, 2014) in its entirety is available at church or you may request a copy be mailed or emailed to you. Church email: plc@huxcomm.net

Current policy	Proposed revision
<p>1. Reservations</p> <p>You are encouraged to make a reservation for the date of your wedding with our pastor as early as is feasible, at least 60 days in advance of your planned wedding, to assure that the church is available on your selected date</p>	<p>1. Reservations</p> <p>You are encouraged to make a reservation for the date of your wedding with our pastor as early as is feasible, at least 90 days in advance of your planned wedding, to assure that the church is available on your selected date</p>
<p>2. Weddings for Non- Members</p> <p>The Council has set a policy of openness regarding non-member weddings at Palestine. Non - Member wedding are considered to be those weddings in which neither the bride nor the groom are currently members at Palestine Lutheran Church.</p> <p>If you desire to be married at Palestine in a Christian Wedding Service, make a request with our Pastor. Palestine's church council gives the final approval. Requests are normally decided on upon within the month.</p> <p>Fees are listed near the end of this document</p>	<p>2. Weddings for Non- Members</p> <p>The Council has set a policy of openness regarding non-member weddings at Palestine. Non - Member wedding are considered to be those weddings in which neither the bride nor the groom are currently members at Palestine Lutheran Church.</p> <p>If you desire to be married at Palestine in a Christian Wedding Service, make a request with our Pastor. Palestine's church council gives the final approval. Requests are normally decided on upon within the month. Palestine Lutheran Church reserves the right to refuse any wedding that does not adhere to the guidelines established within this Wedding Policy.</p> <p>Fees are listed near the end of this document</p>

Palestine Lutheran Church Wedding Policy Proposed Revisions

<p>3. Pre-marital Counseling</p> <p>Please contact our pastor to arrange a schedule for pre-marital counseling sessions. These counseling sessions are intended to help both of you prepare for your marriage, and for the wedding itself. The number of sessions will be determined by the pastor, based on the circumstances of your wedding.</p> <p>Lutheran Social Services of Iowa in Ames offers a pre-marital workshop called “Making the Covenant”, which is highly recommended. Arrangements can be made through our pastor. The workshop program is designed to supplement instruction and counsel given by the pastor. The dates and places of these workshops vary, so please call the church office for more information.</p>	<p>3. Pre-marital Counseling</p> <p>Those planning to marry at Palestine Lutheran Church will be required to schedule and participate in pre-marital counseling with the pastor of Palestine Lutheran Church with the total number of sessions to be determined by the pastor, based on the circumstances of the wedding. If the couple wishes to have another pastor, or counselor provide pre-marital counseling, then with completion of such counseling, one session with the pastor of Palestine Lutheran Church will be required.</p>
<p>7. The Wedding Service --</p> <p>All weddings performed at Palestine are Christian worship celebrations in which people gather not only to witness the marriage of two people (one man and one woman), but also to praise God. Each wedding service, including music, is reverent, worshipful, and is in keeping with the Christian practices observed by the Palestine Congregation.</p> <p>Palestine's church accompanist is usually available for weddings. When another accompanist has been chosen to play for the service, consult with our accompanist regarding presets and etc. of the organ.</p>	<p>7. The Wedding Service --</p> <p>All weddings performed at Palestine are Christian worship celebrations in which people gather not only to witness the marriage of a man and a woman in accordance with the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal © 2006 outlined on Pages 286-291, but also to praise God. Each wedding service, including music, is reverent, worshipful, and is in keeping with the Christian practices observed by the Palestine Congregation.</p> <p>Palestine's church accompanist is usually available for weddings. When another accompanist has been chosen to play for the service, consult with our accompanist regarding presets and etc. of the organ.</p>