

 **Palestine**  
Lutheran Church

**September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**16<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**

*Reaching Out in Christian Love to All*

1375 Highway 210

Huxley, IA 50124

**Pastor: Eric Klimpel**

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Pastor's cell phone: 936-444-3895

Youth Liaison: Nels Dovre

Secretary's Office: 515-597-2624

Church Email: [palestinelutheran@gmail.com](mailto:palestinelutheran@gmail.com)

Church Website: [www.plchuxley.com](http://www.plchuxley.com)

## 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost

September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022

*Consideration of and care for those in need (especially those “at our gate,” visible to us, of whom we are aware) is an essential component of good stewardship. It is in the sharing of wealth that we avoid the snare of wealth. It is the one whom death could not hold—who comes to us risen from the dead—who can free us from the death grip of greed.*

\*=Stand as you are able    **Bold Print** = congregation responds

**ELW**=Red Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Prelude

Ringling of the Bell

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

### \***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father,

and of the ✝ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For**

**the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.  
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight  
in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your  
holy name.  
Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us,  
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and  
ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I  
therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in  
the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG**

**“Gather Us In”**

**ELW 532**

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; Music: Marty Haugen; Text and music © 1982 GIA Publications Inc.,  
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# Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,  
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,  
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.  
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth,  
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the  
 Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the  
 Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name,  
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.  
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

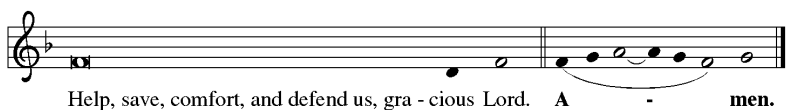
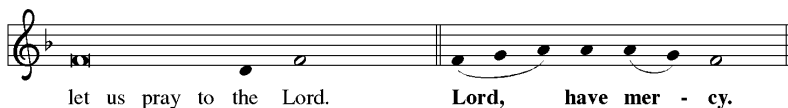
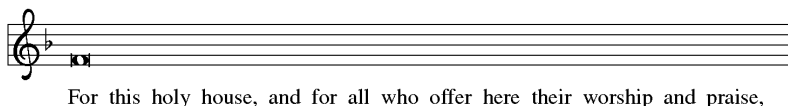
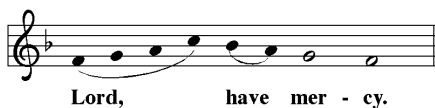
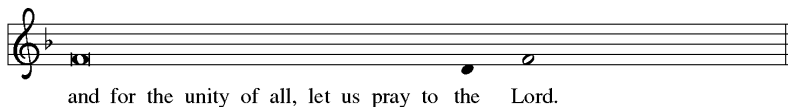
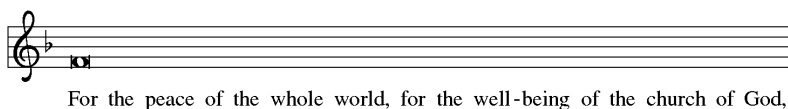
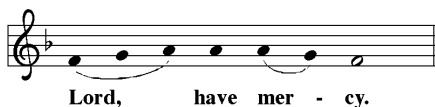
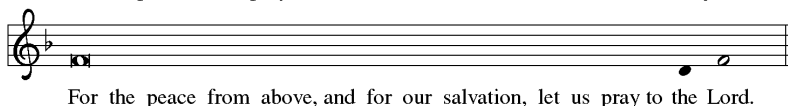
## \*GREETING

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.**

## \*KYRIE

*setting 3 page 138*



# \*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Setting 3 pg 139

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

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

### **FIRST READING: Amos 6:1a, 4-7**

*The prophet Amos announces that Israel's great wealth is a cause not for rejoicing but rather sorrow, because God's people have forgotten how to share their wealth with the poor. The wealthy will be the first to go into exile when judgment comes.*

<sup>1a</sup>Alas for those who are at ease in Zion,  
and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria,

<sup>4</sup>Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory,  
and lounge on their couches,  
and eat lambs from the flock,  
and calves from the stall;

<sup>5</sup>who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp,  
and like David improvise on instruments of music;

<sup>6</sup>who drink wine from bowls,  
and anoint themselves with the finest oils,  
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!

<sup>7</sup>Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile,  
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 146

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah!

**Praise the LORD, O my soul!**

<sup>2</sup>I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

**I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

<sup>3</sup>Put not your trust in rulers,

**in mortals in whom there is no help.**

<sup>4</sup>When they breathe their last, they return to earth,

**and in that day their thoughts perish.**

<sup>5</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,

**whose hope is in the LORD their God;**

<sup>6</sup>who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;

**who keeps promises forever;**

<sup>7</sup>who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

**The LORD sets the captive free.**

<sup>8</sup>The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

**the LORD loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD cares for the stranger;

**the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.**

<sup>10</sup>The LORD shall reign forever,

**your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

## SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

*Timothy is reminded of the confession he made at his baptism and of its implications for daily life. His priorities will be different from those of people who merely want to be rich.*

<sup>6</sup>Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; <sup>7</sup>for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; <sup>8</sup>but if we have food and clothing, we



will be content with these. <sup>9</sup>But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup>For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

<sup>11</sup>But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. <sup>12</sup>Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. <sup>13</sup>In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you <sup>14</sup>to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup>which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. <sup>16</sup>It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

<sup>17</sup>As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. <sup>18</sup>They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, <sup>19</sup>thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God**

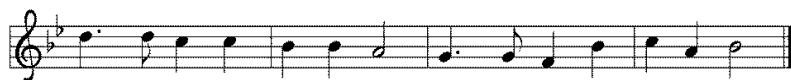
## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## \*GOSPEL: Luke 16:19-31

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter.

### Glory to you, O Lord.

*Jesus tells a parable in which the poor one is “lifted up” and the rich one is “sent away empty.” Jesus makes it clear that this ethic of merciful reversal is not new but is as old as Moses and the prophets.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>19</sup>“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup>And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup>who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. <sup>22</sup>The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup>In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup>He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.’ <sup>25</sup>But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is

comforted here, and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup>Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ <sup>27</sup>He said, ‘Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house—<sup>28</sup>for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ <sup>29</sup>Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ <sup>30</sup>He said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ <sup>31</sup>He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

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

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

*Children will leave to go to Children’s Church*

Preschool/Kindergarten – room beside nursery in north fellowship hall

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – Upstairs to the left

3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grades – Upstairs to the left

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grades – Downstairs

Confirmation – Conference room

## **REFLECTION HYMN:**

**“Seek Ye First”**

**W&P 122**

Text: Matt. 6:33, 7:7, adapt.; Music: Karen Lafferty, b. 1948; © 1972 Maranatha! Music, admin. The Copyright Company; Reprinted under CCLI #2551458

Optional descant

Al - le - lu - ia, al -

D F#m G D G

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God and its  
2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and

le - lu - ia, al - le -

D Em7 A7 D F#m

righ - teous - ness, and all these things shall be  
you shall find; knock and the door shall be

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

G D G D Em7 A D

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.  
o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

## SERMON

### Senior Choir

### “Living Hope”

Brian Johnson, Phil Wickham; **CCLI SONG #7106807**; 2017 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]); Sing My Songs (Fair Trade Music Publishing [c/o Essential Music Publishing LLC]); Bethel Music Publishing; Reprinted under CCLI #2551458

## **\*APOSTLES' CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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

**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.**

**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.  
Amen.**

## **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation.

*A brief silence.*

O God, rich in mercy, fill your church with righteousness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. Empower the baptized by your Spirit to be rich in good works and ready to share.

God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Protect the earth and its creatures. Provide water, food, shelter, and favorable habitats, especially for endangered species.  
Preserve threatened ice caps, glaciers, parks, and beaches.

God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Increase justice in nations, local governments, and courtrooms.  
Guide lawyers and those who hold public office to act with compassion and discernment.

God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Give food to the hungry. Set the captives free. Lift up those who are bowed down. Watch over the stranger. Tend to those who are ill (*especially*):

Tyler Anderson	Jean Bair	Penelope Brown
Joan Carson	Tonya Crees	Bev Echtenkamp
Arlyce Engles	Julie Gentry	Phyl Hughes
Sandra Kalsem	Roger Larson	Merlin Lyon
Lynzee Makowski	Loree Ness	Kathy Saveraid
Shirley Saveraid	Rachel Sinclair	Deidre Qual
Karen Rew	Harold Rittgers	Shannon Tope

Stir us to act in the best interest of our neighbors.

God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Enliven our praise. Inspire musicians, artists, poets, and all who create beauty in this place.

God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Enfold the saints who have died in the arms of your loving care, especially:

Family and Friends of: Mae Rivard, Doris Ness, Nathan Stupka, Bart Mason, Lowell Elliott, Kaytie Anderson, Debbie Bollmeyer, Linda Lantz, Barb Larson, Jackie Greene, Roy Greene, 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, and Warren Johnson

Grant that the holy angels accompany us and bring us to eternal life with them in the light of your presence.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

### **\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

### **OFFERING**

#### **HYMN OF THE MONTH: “Trust and Obey”**

Daniel Brink Towner, John Henry Sammis, Russell Mauldin; **CCLI SONG #7056336**; Words: Public Domain; Music: 2010 Belden Street Music Publishing (Admin. by ClearBox Rights, LLC); Reprinted under CCLI #2551458

1. When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,  
 2. Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies,  
 3. Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,  
 4. But we never can prove the delights of His love,  
 5. Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet,

What a glory He sheds on our way! While we do His good  
 But His smile quickly drives it away; Not a doubt nor a  
 But our toil He doth richly repay; Not a grief nor a  
 Un - til all on the altar we lay; For the favor He  
 Or we'll walk by His side in the way; What He says we will

will He abide with us still, And with all who will  
 fear, not a sigh nor a tear, Can abide while we  
 loss, not a frown nor a cross, But is blest if we  
 shows and the joy He bestows Are for them who will  
 do, where He sends we will go— Nev - er fear, on - ly

*Refrain*  
 trust and o - bey. Trust and o - bey, for there's no oth - er  
 way To be hap - py in Je - sus, But to trust and o - bey.



### **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

### **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

**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****"Here I Am, Lord"****ELW 574**


Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946; Music: Daniel L. Schutte; Text and music © 1981 OCP Publications, Inc., 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted under OneLicense.net 1-708142 All rights reserved.




1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.  
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.  
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.  
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



*Refrain*  
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

Ringling of the Bell

Postlude

For streaming and printing:

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### **Those Serving in Today's Service**

Pastor: Pastor Klimpel

Accompanist: Mindy DeVries

Youth Liaison: Nels Dovre

Lector: Owen Williams

Acolyte: Madeline Schonhorst

*Technicians:* Brent Emerson, Brayden DeVries

### **This Week at Palestine**

Today, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 16<sup>th</sup> *Sunday of Pentecost*

8:30 a.m. Choir practice

9:30 a.m. Worship; children's church

Music with Nels in children's chapel downstairs

Adult Catechism begins

Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022

7:30 p.m. Zoom Bible Study

Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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

Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022

6:30 p.m. Griefshare

Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 17<sup>th</sup> *Sunday of Pentecost*

8:30 a.m. Choir practice

9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion

New Member Class

Adult Catechism

Lectionary texts: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; Psalm 37:1-9; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10



**Southeastern Iowa Synod**

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

**E-News Prayer:** Pray that congregations engaged in mission planning and renewal will be guided and inspired by the Spirit, listening to God through Scripture and prayer, to the voices within our faith communities and to those outside the doors of our congregations.

***Thank you for your Gifts for Ministry***

**Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022:**

**Attendance: 118**

General: \$5,716.00

Benevolence: \$32.00

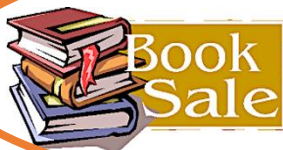
THANK YOU!!! We celebrate your generosity and thank you in advance for your support.

## Tithes & Offering

Palestine will accept your offering!

1. **Bring** to worship service with you and place in offering plates.
2. **Mail** check to:  
Palestine Lutheran Church  
1375 HWY 210  
Huxley, IA 50124
3. **Give online through Easy Tithe.**  
Go to our website [www.plchuxley.com](http://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.*



## FALL BOOK BASH

**Today!**



## BLOOD DRIVE

**Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> 3-7 p.m.**

**@ the church**

**Sign up one of two ways:**

- ♥ By calling Deb Moore at 515-460-1037
- ♥ Via the LifeServe website: [www.lifeservebloodcenter.org](http://www.lifeservebloodcenter.org)

*By Appointment only*

***Every pint of blood donated can help to save  
or improve three lives!***



Thank you to all who were able to come out and pick cantaloupe on "God's Work, Our Hands" day. The volunteers picked around 7000 lbs in a little over two hours. The melons were delivered to area food pantries during the following week to help feed hungry Iowans. Thank you, again, for your hard work.

*- Iowa Gardening for Good, Tracy & Doreen Blackmer*



I would like to thank everyone who sent cards, prayers and good wishes my way during my eye surgeries and back surgery this past year. Having the support and prayers of my church family made all the difference in keeping a positive attitude. Thank you, again, for the kind thoughts and offers of assistance during my recovery periods. I appreciated it all!

*- Doreen Blackmer*

# Women of the ELCA

## Cluster 1 Fall Gathering

**Saturday, October 8, 2022**

St. John's Lutheran Fellowship Room  
104 S. Market Street  
Madrid, IA

- Registration (\$5), refreshments & fellowship 9 a.m.
- Program 9:45 a.m.
- "All are Welcome" – Afghan emigres
- Speaker: Lutheran Services of Iowa (Matthew 25:36-44)



3001 Riverside Road  
Story City, IA 50248  
[www.riversidelbc.org](http://www.riversidelbc.org)

### **Fall Recharge. October 21-23<sup>rd</sup> for 3-6<sup>th</sup> graders!**

A Recharge is a super fun weekend event at Riverside during the fall that is like a whole week of camp smashed into 40 hours! You'll have a ton of fun! There will be worship, wonderful friends, great food, games, activities, free time, small groups, carpetball, awesome cabin leaders, fabulous skits, and a "no homework guarantee"!! Check-in is from 7:30-8:20 pm on Friday night and pick-up is at noon on Sunday (pickup at cabins). See all of the details on their website! It's going to be a ton of fun!

Register online @ <https://www.riversidelbc.org/registration>

**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.

### **Optical Illusions** *(based on Luke 16)*

Have you ever seen one of those pictures that changes depending on how you look at it? Is it a rabbit or a duck? Is it a vase or two faces looking at one another? A young woman or an old one? Sometimes our first impression of something gets in the way of us seeing it another way.

In the parable Jesus tells today, there is a man with wealth and influence who has always seen his life as a success. That success seems all the more pronounced in contrast to a poor, sick beggar who is always hanging around the entrance to his house. But when the rich man dies, he realizes that his life was actually the opposite of what he thought. It was not his possessions or status that mattered; it was the justice and love he showed to others. When it came to those things, he was far more impoverished and much sicker than the man he looked down on every day.

When we look at our own lives, it can be easy to get stuck in just one way of seeing them. If we focus on worldly standards, we may judge ourselves as successes or failures in ways that are out of touch with how God sees us. With this parable, Jesus calls us to new ways of looking at ourselves. Where are we missing the opportunities right outside our front door to act with love and justice for our siblings near and far?

In Christian worship, we gather to practice the way our lives and our world appear to God. We lift up the cries that have gone unheard. We look at one another and ourselves through the redemptive waters of baptism. We feed one another around the table that Christ sets for us all in our common need. As witnesses to God's truth, we send one another forth to shatter misguided illusions in the world around us.