

Reaching out in Christian love to all!

**THE PALESTINE PRESS
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

FEBRUARY 2026



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

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

Mission Statement:

“Palestine Lutheran Church exists to proclaim and live God’s Holy Word, to nurture and support our membership, and to enable us to live our faith in our daily lives. As we are nourished, we are called to reach out to our communities, our spheres of influence, and to the wider world through the church-at-large.”

Our Vision:

Palestine Lutheran Church will be a haven for all generations, a people worshipping and growing continually in relationship with Jesus, inspired by God’s Word; a living example of stewardship, a loving and caring fellowship that reaches out in Christ-centered faith and love to the world.



Pastor Eric will be doing visitation for members who would like to have one. Please contact Pastor Eric if you would like to have a visit. You do not have to wait for him to call.

Call 515-597-2620 or email ericklimpel@gmail.com

We would like to work out what is best and safest for the visit and distribution for each person.

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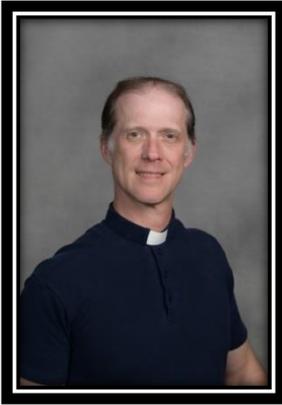


Palestine will accept your offering!

1. **Bring** to worship service with you and place in offering plates.
2. **Mail** check to:
Palestine Lutheran Church
P.O. 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 or scan the QR code.
4. **Text GIVE** to 515-207-6435.



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



Experiencing the Ripples of
Baptism Together in Lent -----
-----With Pastor Eric

¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." – Matt 3:17-18

Roy Lloyd, a Lutheran minister, once interviewed Mother Teresa. He said that one of his questions and one of her answers stands out in his mind as "a bright sun burning in my mind." He asked her, "What's the biggest problem in the world today?" And she answered, without hesitation, "The biggest problem in the world today is that we draw the circle of our family too small. We need to draw it larger every day."

With all that is evil and wrong in this world today it would be easy to answer that question with a hundred different events. That's what makes Mother Teresa's response so jarring. She is saying that the problem is not so much with the world as it is with us. We need to see more people as our neighbor than we are currently doing.

I see Jesus doing this in his baptism. In his baptism he included us in his righteousness. He identified with humanity, with our need to be cleansed, and our need to be made pure. If you have been baptized you have been drawn, by Jesus' baptism, into the circle of God's family. God draws the circle larger and larger like the ripples in water. What causes water rippling in our baptismal water is the power of the Christ crucified and risen. What binds us together is our common identity as “children of God” – we are all sinners who are drown, dead in our sin and broken, only to be raised out of the waters into new life as babies born into a new way of life with God, our parent.

Since God draws the circle larger, I believe that we should as well. Palestine Lutheran has as its motto “Reaching out to all in Christian love.” Perhaps, our motto is another way of saying “making the circle larger.” During lent we will reflect on our baptismal identity as we experience “making the circle larger” in our homes, neighborhoods and communities.

Let us pray. ***Gracious God, Heavenly Father, whose circles grows and grows, may your love and grace make ripples of life and love in our lives in order to make our circles larger, our family bigger and our unity in you greater in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.***



You are invited to a Wartbug Winter Concert Saturday,
February 14th at Grace E-Free Church in Huxley.

All are welcome!

7:00 p.m. with refreshments after.

GET INVOLVED

Men's Bible Study

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

ZOOM Bible Study

Tuesdays from 7:00pm – 8:00pm – The Chosen (Season 2): The Bible Study. (8 Sessions). This interactive study guide for the 8-week TV series The Chosen allows you to delve more deeply into each episode as you explore the life of Jesus. You'll come to realize that you are called, cherished, and carried; have been made new and established; are now his witness; and more. If you need help securing material, please contact ericklimpel@gmail.com



R.O.C.K. Group

For high school students. The R.O.C.K. Group typically meets on the first Wednesday of every month from 6:30 – 8 p.m. at Palestine. The R.O.C.K. Group will also meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 6:30-8 p.m. for Gather@ (location to be announced: Palestine or Fjeldberg).

CONFIRMATION

Wednesday, 6:30pm – 8pm @ Palestine Lutheran Church – 7th & 8th grades - Classes on the Small Catechism with the goal of confirmation at the end of a two-year ministry of service, discussion and fun. Questions? Contact Pastor Eric Klimpel @ ericklimpel@gmail.com

Food Pantry Ministry

Help serve at the local food pantry in Huxley by signing up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b48acaa2ba3f85-food#/>. The pantry is currently going through some changes. If you have questions, contact Deb Moore (515-460-1037) and if she doesn't know the answer, she'll find out.

New Member Orientation Meetings

February 15th after worship in the south conference room as arranged by Pastor. Anyone who would like to inquire about Palestine Lutheran Church and find some insights into its history, people and ministry are welcome. For prospective members, new members and yes, even veteran members! All are welcome! Let the church office know if you are interested so that we can prepare materials (@ palestinelutheran@gmail.com)

Theology on Tap

Gathering for adults who want to fellowship, relax and solve the world's problems together while creating some potential new ones. We will take time to fellowship around God's Word and grow together as a community.

➡ **Join us for the next one in February 8th from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.** at Flight in Huxley, 931 N US HWY 69, Huxley, IA 50124 (*No reservations needed, just show up!* 😊)



First Communion Class

This year's first communion classes will be held after church (10:45-11:30) on **February 22, March 1st, 8th, and 29th** (this avoids spring break Sundays). The class is designed for the 5th grade level, however, if your child is younger and you feel they are ready to participate, that is fine. Class will meet in the conference room. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend along with their child.

If you have questions or want to enroll your child in the class, you can email the church office at palestinelutheran@gmail.com.



Daily Faith Practices

Daily discipleship themes can be used for Bible study. They are available on the ELCA website www.elca.org →Resources→ Downloadable Resources→ Bible studies

Epiphany 4

Focus: *God's Foolishness*

"For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength." (1

Corinthians 1:25 NRSV)

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Epiphany 5

Focus: *Proclaiming Christ*

"My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God." (1 Corinthians 2:4-5 NRSV)

Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Transfiguration of our Lord

Focus: *Eyewitness News*

"For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty."

2 Peter 1:16 (NRSV)

Read 2 Peter 1:16-21

Lent 1

Focus: *From Sin to Life*

"Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all." (Romans 5:18 NRSV)

Read Romans 5:12-19



**Honest Questions
for Deeper Faith**

**HOLY
SEEKING**

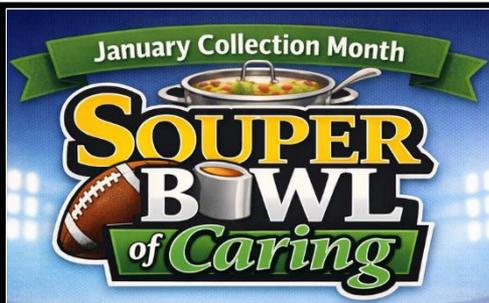


*The Lenten Journey Begins.
Ash Wednesday is February 18th.*



JOIN US AT 6:00 P.M.
**Wednesdays during Lent for a light
 meal and fellowship before our mid-
 week Lenten Worships at 7:00 p.m.**

February 25 th	Soups	<i>Sponsored by Fellowship/Evangelism</i>
March 4 th	TBA	<i>Sponsored by Education</i>
March 11 th	TBA	<i>Sponsored by Church Council</i>
March 18 th	TBA	<i>Sponsored by Choir</i>
March 25 th	TBA	<i>Sponsored by Quilters</i>



The K.I.C.K. Group is collecting cans of chunky-style soup & monetary donations to support our local food pantry. **Drop-off location:** north fellowship hall. Now – February 8th.

Help us tackle hunger—one can at a time!

HUXLEY COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH

2:30PM-6:30PM

Palastine Church
55971 IA-210 - Huxley



APPOINTMENTS ARE ENCOURAGED

R.O.C.K. GROUP'S *Valentine's Day* RAFFLE BASKET



Treat your Valentine to a cozy date night with a charcuterie-style basket! **Tickets are \$10 each.**

Sales will be in north fellowship hall after worship February 1st and Feb. 8th before the drawing. (OR see a ROCK member or leader for a ticket). **Drawing will be held Sunday, Feb. 8th.** You do not need to be present to win.



February 2026

- 1 Hol, Alyssa
- 3 Johnson, Evelyn
- 6 Thomas, Alexander
Twedt, Grant
- 7 Elliott, Trice
- 8 Nelson, Richard (83rd)
Saveraid, David (73rd)
- 9 Shelton, Tom
- 11 Shelton, Gabe
Shelton, Kristin
Van Pelt, Alise
- 13 Cast, Bernadine (94th)
Kopaska, Deb
- 15 Larson, Virgil (84th)
- 16 Kam, Melinda
Ness, Toni
- 17 Hillebo, Soren
Williams, Matthew
- 18 Thomas, Caroline
- 20 Dykstra, Avery
- 22 Lewis, Aubrey
Sample, Justin
Thomas, Cindi
- 24 Medici, Stacie
- 29 Dykstra, Travis



Let's shower the following members with birthday cards:

Feb. 8th Richard Nelson

Feb. 13th Bernadine Cast

Feb. 15th Virgil Larson

See mailed newsletter for addresses.



16 Jason & Melinda Kam

24 Leonard & Sue Larson

If there is a record of error or omission, please let us know at palestinelutheran@gmail.com or 515-597-2624.



ALTAR GUILD: Donna Millang;
Helen Kepler

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

February 1st: David & Vallery Eisenmann

February 15th: Leonard and Sue Larson

February 18th: Leonard and Sue Larson

USHERS: *needed*

OFFERING COUNTERS: Holly Twedt; Tracy Rhoads

GREETERS* , **:

Feb. 1st: Nancy Fausch; Tom & Kari Sandquist

Feb. 8th: Greg & Christa Hartsook; Dennis & Donna Millang

Feb. 15th: Bruce & Angie Hartman; Laura Kepler

Feb. 22nd: Chris & Amanda Richter; Mike & Cindi Thomas

*Greeters scheduled are asked to serve coffee/juice/water during fellowship

**All greeters for the month are asked to bring two dozen treats to share on the 2nd Sunday of the month.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
<p>1 <i>4th Sunday of Epiphany</i> 8:00 a.m. Council Mtg 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion; Installation of Council <i>Music with Nels</i> Altar Guild Meeting & Training</p> <p><i>Lesa on Vacation</i> →</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 10:00 a.m. Rock Creek Worship Ankeny (<i>Pastor</i>) 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study</p>
<p>8 <i>5th Sunday of Epiphany</i> 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Baptism <i>Music with Nels</i> "Cookie Sunday" 5:30 p.m. Theology on Tap</p> <p><i>Lesa on vacation</i></p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 10:00 a.m. Area Pastor's Study (<i>Pastor</i>)  2:30 – 6:30 p.m. Blood Drive 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study</p>
<p>15 <i>Transfiguration of our Lord</i> 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion <i>Music with Nels</i> <i>New member orientation</i> 5:00 p.m. 4H Early Bird Summer Camp Registration due for Riverside</p>	<p>16  Kari on vacation →</p>	<p>17 10:00 a.m. Area Pastors' Study 1:00 p.m. Cedars Worship in Madrid (<i>Pastor</i>) 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study</p>
<p>22 <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i> 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship <i>Music with Nels</i> 10:45 – 11:30 a.m. First communion class</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 10:00 a.m. Area Pastors' Study 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study</p>

March 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

FEBRUARY 2026

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>4</p> <p>7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. Confirmation 6:30 p.m. R.O.C.K. @ Palestine</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>11</p> <p>7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:30 p.m. Prayer Support Group 1:00 p.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. Confirmation 6:30 p.m. R.O.C.K. Gather @ Palestine</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>Wartburg Winter Concert @ Grace EV Free Church (time TBA)</p>
<p>18</p> <p>7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Quilters 2:00 p.m. North Polk Ministerial Mtg (<i>Pastor</i>) 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday; Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes</p> 	<p>19</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Conference Chaplain Mtg (<i>Pastor</i>) 11:00 a.m. Ballard Ministerial Mtg (<i>Pastor</i>)</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Riverside Benefit Gala (pre-register)</p>
<p>25</p> <p>7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Green Hills Worship (<i>Pastor</i>) 1:00 p.m. Quilting 6:00 p.m. Lenten Light Meal (soups) 6:30 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Worship</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Riverside Marriage Retreat through March 1st (pre-register)</p>	<p>28</p>

Mark your calendars for our annual fish fry Friday, March 6th!



COUNCIL MINUTES

These minutes have not yet been approved.

See mailed newsletter for minutes.

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Remember in Prayer

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

Dick Brown, Penny Brown, Kristy Brownfield, Gloria Dovre, Marvin Edwards, Jon Irwin, Terri Irwin, Betsy Johnson, Rose Locker, Gemma Lynch, Norma McBride, Chris Nelson, Debra Ness, Larry Pote, Jean Sandquist, Tim Shoemaker, Marvin Sorensen, Oriett Snider

Friends and Family of: Linda Lewis, Sally Greve, Roger Larson, Krishna Barrett, Dick Cast, Cheryl (Ness) Shranklen, Marge Sheldahl, Sandy Wirtz, Ken Larson, Alice Kahler, Harold Rittgers, Esther Orn, Dick Kepler, Dennis Green, Charles Sheldahl, Cynthia Peterson, Bethine Nelson



Ballard Clothing Pantry

March is Palestine's month to staff the Clothing Pantry. There will be a sign up in fellowship hall to sign up for shifts or you can go to our online sign up on our weekly announcements or at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rr8989x2djJv_nfZufdFDSR_YeN0N27m4_B3FU-jfZU/edit?usp=sharing. The Clothing Pantry is a valuable service for many people in our community. It stays open only because of generous volunteers.

Please consider staffing at least one shift.



Scholarships

Palestine awarded five \$200 scholarships to those seeking higher education after high school.

The recipients were: Brayden DeVries, Nic Larson, Sienna Lewis, Grant Twedt, Alise Van Pelt



Thank
You!

Dear Palestine Lutheran Church,
Thank you so much for the scholarship! The continued support for my education has made me so grateful over the past year, and I am incredibly thankful to everyone in my church family. It is truly a blessing to be a part of this community.

Thank you,
Sienna Lewis

Palestine Church,

Thank you for the Scholarship! I will put the money towards Spring Semester expenses at DMACC.

Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,
Grant Twedt



thanks!

THANKS

Dear Palestine,

Thank you so much for the scholarship, and your support. I am beginning my nursing program this semester, and this scholarship will play a role in helping me further my education. It will ease some of the financial stress and allow me to focus more on classes and clinicals. I truly appreciate the church's support as I work towards my goal of becoming a nurse. Thank you again for your generosity and support. From, Alise VP



Cynthia Johnson celebrated her 80th birthday with a cake reception after worship on a cold January 18th.



Thank you for sharing this milestone with us!





**We welcome our new
sister in Christ:**

Lola Hermanson

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



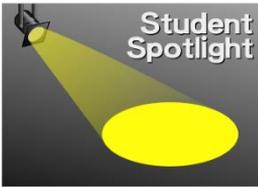
Born March 13, 2024, Baptized January 25, 2026
Lola is the daughter of Jacob & Lerin Hermanson



**We welcomed new members
into our Palestine Family
January 25th:**

Lindsay, Luke and Alex Mitchell
Jacob & Lerin Hermanson





COLLEGE/MILITARY UPDATES:

This month we are featuring:

Nick Larson



I am currently attending Bemidji State University in Bemidji Minnesota. I am studying Wildlife Biology with a wetlands ecology minor. Interesting things that I enjoy doing while at school include doing as much fishing and hunting as I possibly can.

Here is a photo of me at school, ice fishing for walleye.

2026 Chili Cook-Off Winner:



**AUBREY
LEWIS**

*Thank you to everyone that brought their chili to share and thank you to everyone that supported the R.O.C.K. Group by voting with a monetary donation.
\$314 raised!*

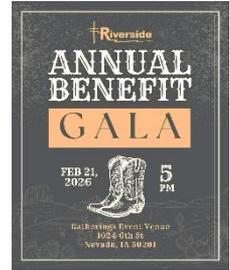


UPCOMING EVENTS:

➔ RIVERSIDE BENEFIT GALA

February 21, 2026 5 p.m.

We're excited to host our annual Gala once again, **with a western twist this year!** Join us for a cozy, country-themed evening with fellow supporters as we celebrate and give generously toward the life-changing, Christ-centered ministry of Riverside. Enjoy a hearty dinner and browse an array of silent and live auction items throughout the night. We hope you'll join us and invite your friends to be part of this meaningful and joy-filled event!



Location: Gatherings Event Venue in Nevada, IA

Age: Adults

➔ MARRIAGE RETREAT

February 27-March 1, 2026

This will be a memorable weekend for all couples. Spouses are a blessing and God desires for us to invest time in strengthening and celebrating this union. We are going to have so much fun with Jim and Dawn Anderson, our speakers for this retreat.



➔ SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION!

Early bird registration cost discount February 15, 2026. Summer staff hiring is open as well!



PSALM 135:13 | RIVERSIDE BIBLE CAMP

Palentine Lutheran Church

P.O. BOX 189

Huxley, IA 50124-8110

Address service requested