

GUIDED
to the
CROSS

Lent

PRAY. FAST. SERVE.



1375 Highway 210

P.O. Box 189

Huxley, IA 50124

515-597-2620 (Pastor)

515-597-2624 (Office)

palestinelutheran@gmail.com

www.plchuxley.com

Reaching out in Christian love to all!

FEBRUARY 2024



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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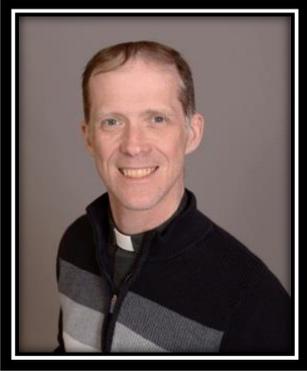


Tithes & Offering

Palestine will accept your offering!

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



**Considering the Means
..... With Pastor Eric**

²⁴ Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. ²⁵Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one. ²⁶So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air; ²⁷but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified. – 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith... – Hebrews 12:1-2a

We are beginning our Lent journey a bit earlier this year, so I am writing this message a week after Christmas while not knowing what lays ahead for Lent. I am keeping tabs on an active shooter situation in Perry as this keyboard clicks and thinking “Yes! It can happen in small town Iowa!” At the same time, I am wrestling with an email that is not working and a cell that is having trouble staying connected to the internet! I am unable to get in touch with the Lutheran pastor in Perry, while finding out that another pastor is having a crisis within his own family! It’s amazing how close we are to tragedy at any moment and when it happens, we can feel so helpless so quickly!

With a wider lens I notice how helpless I can feel when looking at 2024 with wars escalating in the Middle East and Ukraine, with a border crisis

involving thousands, with droughts in the Midwest and earthquakes in the Northeastern U.S.A., mass shootings up and one just a short drive away, and to cap it all, in the back of my mind is the image of a satanic altar in the middle of the Iowa State capital! When these things happen, humanity tends to get frustrated and sometime desperate for the easy answer and the immediate “solution” – or at least we want to feel safe and certain more than rational and compassionate. I like to think of it as we are more concerned with the desired ends than we are the means of getting to them.

Paul assures us that in Christ Jesus we have won the race already and will receive the crown. God has given us a share in the victory; however, we must still run the race. We must train for it and compete within the rules laid out for it. Paul is telling us that the means are just as, if not more important, than the ends in our life as Christ followers. In other words, our witness is grounded in how we live day to day – character counts – faith counts – humility counts. It’s not what you have but how you use it, acquire it, and understand it’s purpose in Jesus Christ. I prefer to consider what Paul is offering here. When we rush towards the end, we lose track of the choices that we’ve made in haste with unnecessary and unwanted results. Jesus provides a gift for us in our anxiety – a great cloud of witnesses – a community to communicate with and help us see the situation with new eyes and much support.

As we run the race in 2024, let go of that weight of anxiety and sin, listen to those around us and think about the “means” before deciding our direction, our stand, our opinion, our priority and yes, our vote. Pray about it hard and listen.

Let us pray. Gracious God, whose love cast out all fear, show us again this Lent and Easter just how much you love us and fill us with the conviction that the ending is yours and in Jesus becomes ours as well, so that we might prayerfully and humbly consider our daily decisions and witness along the way. Help us not to fear but love and not to rush but savor, so that we might realize your gifts of safety and security no matter what, in Jesus’s name we pray. Amen.

GET INVOLVED

ZOOM Bible Study Tuesdays from 7:00pm – 8:00pm ← via ZOOM

(see weekly email announcements for link)

NOTE
NEW
TIME

Guided to the Cross: Six-Session Bible Study for Lent - This Bible study for Lent guides us to the cross of Christ. In-depth Scripture readings draw participants to the forgiveness, hope, love, peace, trust and perseverance found at Calvary. Study and discussion questions, prayers and reflections help to give a better understanding of the richness of Christ's sacrifice. Pick up book copies after February 4th in Fellowship Hall.

If you need help securing material, please contact ericklimpel@gmail.com

Food Pantry Ministry

Help serve at the local food pantry in Huxley with our Fjeldberg friends. Volunteer at the pantry! Contact Jackie Rasmussen (catsrus@huxcomm.net)

Men's Bible Study

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

Youth Confirmation Ministry

For youth in 7th and 8th grades – classes on the small catechism with the goal of confirmation at the end of a two-year ministry of service, discussion, and fun. Questions? Contact Pastor Eric Klimpel @ ericklimpel@gmail.com

R.O.C.K. Group

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

New Member Orientation Meetings

February 11th after worship in the south conference room as arranged with Pastor Eric. 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 February 18st from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. at Fenceline Beer Lab in Huxley, 107 S Main Ave, Huxley, IA 50124



Weather Policy Reminder

Severe Weather Policy: When school is canceled because of the weather, all church functions will be canceled.

If weather hits when school is not in session, a message regarding cancellations will be on the church website (www.plchuxley.com) and the church Facebook page (Palestine Lutheran Church). **Sunday morning worship service cancellation will be made no later than 8:30 a.m.**



If you saved your Palms from last Palm Sunday, bring them in February 1-14th to make into ashes for Ash Wednesday.



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

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Focus: *How might God call you to serve this week?*

“He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.”

Mark 1:31 (NRSV)

Read Mark 1:29-39

Transfiguration of our Lord

Focus: *How does a disciple listen to Jesus?*

“This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him.” Mark 9:7 (NRSV)

Read Mark 9:2-9 aloud.

1st Sunday of Lent

Focus: *What temptations will you face this week?*

“And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.” Mark 1:12 (NRSV)

Read Mark 1:9-15

2nd Sunday of Lent

Focus: *What does it mean to take up your cross and follow Jesus?*

If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

Mark 8:34 (NRSV)

Read Mark 8:31-38



First Communion Class

This year's first communion classes will be held after church (10:45-11:30) on **February 18th, February 25th, March 3rd, and March 24th** (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.



Ballard Clothing Pantry

March is Palestine's month to staff the Clothing Pantry.

Open:

Wednesdays 5-7 p.m.,

Saturdays 10-noon, Sundays 1-3 p.m.

When you sign up, include your phone number in addition to your name, and check to see who has the shift before and after yours. If the previous person hasn't arranged to give you the key, call him/her. Likewise, when you are done with your shift, arrange to pass the key to the next person. The Clothing Pantry is a valuable service for many people in our community. It stays open only because of generous volunteers.

Please consider this important opportunity to serve our community. See Deb Moore for more information. (515-460-1037). The sign-up sheet will be in Fellowship Hall February 4th.

Please consider staffing at least one shift.

**GIVE BLOOD at Palestine Tuesday,
February 6th 3-7 p.m.**



Sign up one of two ways:

- By calling Deb Moore at 515-460-1037
or Kim Van Pelt at 319-541-0817
- Via the LifeServe website:
www.lifeservebloodcenter.org

Appointments are encouraged, but walk ins are welcome



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

for our

2nd Annual Fish Fry

Friday, February 23rd.

Food Sign-up Sheets are in fellowship hall

R.O.C.K. GROUP'S

Valentine's Day 

RAFFLE BASKET

Escape the winter blues and treat your Valentine to a cozy date night by winning this raffle basket! Tickets are \$10 each. Drawing held Sun, Feb 11th. Winner will be notified. You do not need to be present to win!



February 2024



- 1 Hol, Alyssa
- 3 Johnson, Evelyn
Hauge, Michael
- 6 Thomas, Alexander
Twedt, Grant
- 7 Elliott, Trice
- 8 Nelson, Richard (81st)
Saveraid, David (71st)
- 9 Shelton, Tom
- 11 Shelton, Gabe
Shelton, Kristin
Van Pelt, Alise
- 13 Cast, Bernadine (92nd)
Kopaska, Deb
- 15 Larson, Virgil (82nd)
- 16 Kam, Melinda
Ness, Toni
- 17 Williams, Matthew
- 18 Gotta, Nina
Thomas, Caroline
- 20 Dykstra, Avery
- 22 Lewis, Aubrey
Rasmussen, Cheryl
Sample, Justin
Thomas, Cindi
- 24 Medici, Stacie
- 29 Dykstra, Travis

- 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.



Let's shower the following members with birthday cards:

Feb. 8th Richard Nelson

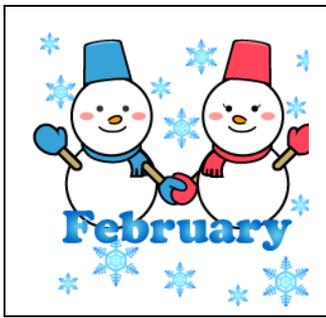
See mailed newsletter for address

Feb. 13th Bernadine Cast

See mailed newsletter for address

Feb. 15th Virgil Larson

See mailed newsletter for address



ALTAR GUID: Donna Millang & Lesa Lewis

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

February 4th: Roger & Deb Moore
February 14th: Dennis Millang
February 18th: Kim Van Pelt

USHERS: Tom & Kari Sandquist; Tim & Julie Huxford

OFFERING COUNTERS: Matt & Erika Williams

GREETERS*, **:

February 4th: Marvin & Lori Edwards; Bill & Sandy Harleen
February 11th: Matt & Erika Williams; Nancy Fausch
February 18th: Marlys Hartman; Dick & Helen Kepler
February 25th: Jean Saveraid; Tim & Shannon Wilson

*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.

MARCH 2024

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						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
<p>28 4th Sunday of Epiphany 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship Music with Nels Annual Meeting Chili Cook Off</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 10:00 a.m. Area Pastors' Study 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study</p>
<p>4 5th Sunday of Epiphany 8:00 a.m. Council Mtg 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion <i>Music with Nels</i></p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 10:00 a.m. Area Pastors' Study  3 – 7 p.m. Blood Drive 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study</p>
<p>11 Transfiguration of our Lord 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship <i>Music with Nels</i> <i>"Cookie Sunday"</i> <i>New member orientation</i></p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 10:00 a.m. Area Pastors' Study 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study</p>
<p>18 1st Sunday of Lent 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion <i>Music with Nels</i> 10:45 a.m. First Communion Class 5:00 p.m. 4H 5:30 p.m. Theology on Tap</p>	<p>19  Lutheran Day on the Hill</p>	<p>20 10:00 a.m. Area Pastors' Study 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study <i>Newsletter deadline</i></p>
<p>25 2nd Sunday of Lent 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship <i>Music with Nels</i> 10:45 a.m. First Communion Class</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 10:00 a.m. Area Pastors' Study 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study</p>

FEBRUARY 2024

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. Confirmation</p>	1	2	3
<p>7 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.</p>	8	9	<p>10 Daddy-Daughter Dine and Dance @ Riverside</p>
<p>14 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Quilters 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday service; Holy Communion</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div> <p style="text-align: center;">ASH WEDNESDAY</p>	15	16	17
<p>21 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:30 p.m. Prayer Support Group 1:00 p.m. Quilting 2:00 p.m. North Polk Ministerial Mtg 6:00 p.m. Mid-week Lenten meal 6:30 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Mid-week Lenten Worship</p>	22	<p>23</p>  <p>5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Fish Fry @ Palestine</p> <p>Marriage Retreat 23-25th @ Riverside</p>	24
<p>28 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 10: 30 a.m. Green Hills Devotions 1:00 p.m. Quilters 6:00 p.m. Mid-week Lenten meal 6:30 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Mid-week Lenten Worship</p>	<p>29</p> 	March 1	2



COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes are only in the mailed newsletters now.

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Remember in Prayer

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

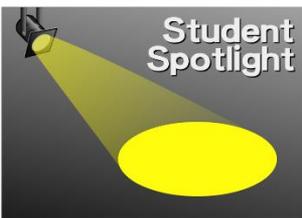
Mark Braun, Adrienne Brown, Ralph Dovre, Dolores Hauge, Alice Kahler, Sandra Kalsem, Vivian Lundgren, Judy McKinney, Karen Myers, Deb Ness, Larry Pote, Havanna Roelfs, Jean Sandquist, Tim Shoemaker, Omar Tesdell, Ramsey Tesdell

Family and friends of: Marilyn Saveraid, Mary Lou Hoover, Roy Paradise, Anita Brendeland, Linda Fausch, Alvina Larson, Warren Johnson, Bev Echtenkamp, Merlin Lyon, Mindy Kahler, Kathy Saveraid, Arleta Wilson, Gary Davis, Shirley Saveraid, Clara Eisenmann, Dan Eisenmann, Dena Bloodsworth, Charles Bowers, Sarah Piper, Helen Miller, Diane Larson, Jacob Leedom, Dan Bushaw, Elaine Paradise, Charlize Flick, Lee Briggs



Join us at 6 p.m.
Wednesdays during Lent
to share a light meal.

February 21st, February 28th
March 6th, March 13th, March 20th



COLLEGE/MILITARY UPDATES:

This month we are featuring:

Inga Dovre and Kaylee Van Pelt



Inga Dovre spent the fall semester studying in the Netherlands. She is back at Bowdoin in Brunswick, Maine this semester studying Earth and Ocean Sciences.

Kaylee Van Pelt is still at UNI majoring in business and minoring in finance; however, she went to Newcastle University in Australia last semester.





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

The recipients were:

Kiley Calvert

Luke Ness

Toni Ness

Megan Rowedder

Ellie Twedt

Alisa Van Pelt



Palestine Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your continued support of my education. I am looking forward to another semester working towards my pharmacy degree and will utilize this scholarship with you all in mind. Can't wait to be back in church soon!

Thanks again!

Best wishes,

Ellie Twedt

Thank you so much for the Palestine scholarship. I will put it towards my expenses at the University of Iowa next year.

Thanks again.

Kiley Calvert



Dear Palestine Family.

Thank you very much for the scholarship you provided to use towards my college education this fall. Your support means a lot to me. I will work hard to make the most of this opportunity.

Thank you again!

Megan Rowedder

To: Palestine church

Thank you so much for the scholarship! As a senior this year I have decided to continue my academic education at University of South Dakota. As of right now I am undecided on what I am going to study but think I am going to be studying something in the healthcare. I will definitely be using this money to help my academic education. Thank you so much again, for this scholarship.

- Alise Van Pelt



3001 Riverside Rd.
Story City, IA 50248

<http://www.riversidelbc.org>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

➔ **Daddy-Daughter DINE & Dance Sunday, February 10th**

Join us this winter for one of our most popular family events! This day is a day for dads and their daughters to dress up in their best to enjoy a 'fancy' dance and a meal together at Riverside! Our Riverside team will prepare a magical space in our Dining Hall with lights, sparkles, and glitter - a time for dads and daughters of any age to enjoy! Actually, we want to also invite and encourage grandpas to bring granddaughters, or uncles to bring nieces, too! This will be a great opportunity to celebrate this special family bond, right here in a Christ-centered setting. Let us treat you this February!

3:30 - 5:30pm at the Riverside Dining Hall

- Cost = \$30 for adults, \$5 for children

➔ **MARRIAGE RETREAT February 23-25, 2024**

A weekend dedicated to you and your spouse.

We would love to host you and your spouse for a weekend away together at Riverside! This will be a memorable weekend for you as a couple and all you need to do is show up - we'll worry about all the details. God has blessed us with our spouse and He desires for us to invest time in strengthening and celebrating this union. We are going to have so much fun with Enrique & Martha Ochoa, our speakers for this retreat.

COST: \$245/couple for onsite lodging
\$195/couple for commuters



February Activities:

We are going to collect change and chunky soups for our "Souper Bowl of Caring" through the Super Bowl date of February 11th.

The change or other donations we receive will be collected and then given to the Huxley Food Pantry for their use. Look for the soup pot with the sign on it in north Fellowship hall. We are looking forward to being able to support local families in need!

Contact any K.I.C.K. advisor with any questions:

Shelley Klingbeil

641-777-1908

shelleyklingbeil@gmail.com

Erika Williams

515-229-7897

erikawllms@gmail.com

Courtney Nobiling

515-979-8729

cnobiling@ballard.k12.ia.us

Shannon Wilson

515-450-7002

shannon@iastate.edu



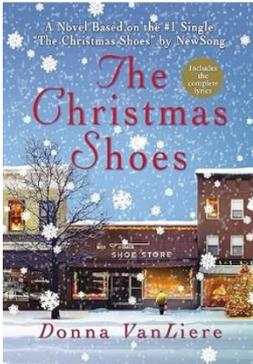
Save the Date:

Lutheran Day on the Hill

Mark your calendar now to join other Lutherans from across Iowa and Lutheran Services in Iowa to learn more about advocacy and talk to Iowa lawmakers.

Monday, February 19, 2024

Des Moines. More [details](#) coming soon.



LIBRARY COMMITTEE BOOK REVIEW

I read this book during Christmas time, but still would like to share about it. It's called The Christmas Shoes. You might recognize the title from New Song releasing the single of it in the winter of 2000. In 2001 Donna VanLiere, came out with a book based on the song and there is even a tv adapted movie as well.

The book focuses mainly on two characters. Robert is a successful attorney that works all the time. He focuses so much on providing for his family that he is rarely home to be with his wife and two daughters. His wife told him she wants a divorce.

When Robert goes Christmas shopping on Christmas Eve for his wife and daughters, he realizes how out of touch he is and has no idea what they would want or like.

The other main character is an eight-year-old boy named Nathan. His family does not have much financially but they do have a lot of love for one another. Nathan's mother is dying soon to cancer and he goes to the store with the money he has been saving to buy her special shoes to meet Jesus with when she goes to heaven. He does not have enough to cover the cost of the shoes but Robert is in line behind him. The exchange between Nathan and Robert is life-changing for Robert. He gives the boy the money and re-thinks his life, his relationships, and his faith. I do not want to give away the ending, but I liked the message of the book. I think it is easy to get swept up in the busyness of life and the book reminds us of the importance of love and relationships.

1375 HWY 210
PO BOX 189
Huxley, IA 50124-8110
Address service requested