



Palestine
Lutheran Church

August 17th, 2025

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Reaching Out in Christian Love to All

1375 Highway 210

P.O. Box 189

Huxley, IA 50124

Pastor: Eric Klimpel

Pastor's Email: ericklimpel@gmail.com

Pastor's Office: 515-597-2620

Pastor's cell phone: 936-444-3895

Youth Liaison: Nels Dovre

Secretary's Office: 515-597-2624

Church Email: palestinelutheran@gmail.com

Church Website: www.plchuxley.com

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 17th, 2025

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great “cloud of witnesses.” In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

*=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**

(ELW p. 94)

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.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

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 "Let the Whole Creation Cry" ELW 876**

Text: Stopford A. Brooke, 1832-1916, alt.; Music: Jakob Hintze, 1622-1702; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750, adapt.; public domain



1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high!"
2 Ser - vants striv - ing for the Lord, proph - ets burn - ing with the word,
3 Men and wom - en, young and old, raise the an - them loud and bold,



Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise to our al - might - y king!"
those to whom the arts be - long add their voic - es to the song.
and let chil - dren's hap - py hearts in this wor - ship take their parts;



Praise God, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;
Pow'rs of knowl - edge and of law, to the glo - rious cir - cle draw;
from the north to south - ern pole let the might - y cho - rus roll:

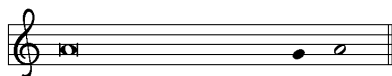


sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re - joice.
all who work and all who wait, sing, "The Lord is good and great!"
"Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One; glo - ry be to God a - lone!"

***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.



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



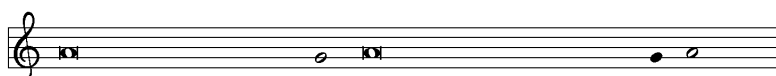
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



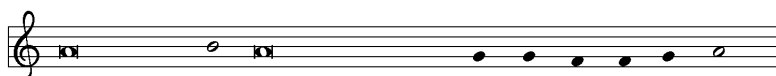
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:23-29

Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.

²³ Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? ²⁴ Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" ²⁶ How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷ They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 82

- ¹ God stands to charge the divine council assembled,
giving judgment in the midst of the gods:
- ² “How long will you judge unjustly,
and show favor to the wicked?
- ³ Save the weak and the orphan;
defend the humble and needy;
- ⁴ rescue the weak and the poor;
deliver them from the power of the wicked.
- ⁵ They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander
about in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
- ⁶ Now I say to you, ‘You are gods,
and all of you children of the Most High;
- ⁷ nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,
and fall like any prince.’”
- ⁸ Arise, O God, and rule the earth,
for you shall take all nations for your own.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:29—12:2

The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this “cloud of witnesses,” we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.

²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the

prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1} Therefore, 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, ² looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

page 151



***GOSPEL: Luke 12:49-56**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 12th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹ "I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵² From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³ they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain,' and so it happens. ⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. ⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

REFLECTION SONG:

“Father, I adore you”

W&P 37

AUTHORS Terrye Coelho; CCLI SONG #26557; CATALOG CCCM Music / Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing; COPYRIGHTS 1972 CCCM Music (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.); Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) Reprinted under CCLI #2551458

1* F Gm C F 2 Gm

1 Fa - ther,
2 Je - sus, I a - dore you, lay my life be -
3 Spir - it,

C F 3 Gm C F

fore you; how I love you.

Detailed description: The image shows a musical score for the song 'Father, I adore you'. It is written in 4/4 time and G major. The first line of music has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5. Above the notes are the chords F, Gm, C, F, and then a measure rest followed by Gm. Above the first measure is a '1*' and above the last measure is a '2'. Below the first line are three lines of lyrics: '1 Fa - ther,', '2 Je - sus, I a - dore you, lay my life be -', and '3 Spir - it,'. The second line of music starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The notes are C4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5. Above the notes are the chords C, F, 3, Gm, C, and F. Below the second line are the lyrics 'fore you; how I love you.'

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“All Are Welcome”

ELW 641

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; Music: Marty Haugen; Text and music © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted under OneLicense.net 1-708142 All rights reserved.

All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
 strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions;
 claim the faith of Je - sus;
 Christ the feast that frees us; All are wel - come,
 end to fear and dan - ger:
 claim from floor to raf - ter.



all are wel-come, all are wel - come in this place.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

**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**

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

A brief silence.

Response: Hear us, O God,
 Your mercy is great.

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

Amen.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL *God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

OFFERING

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

***DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

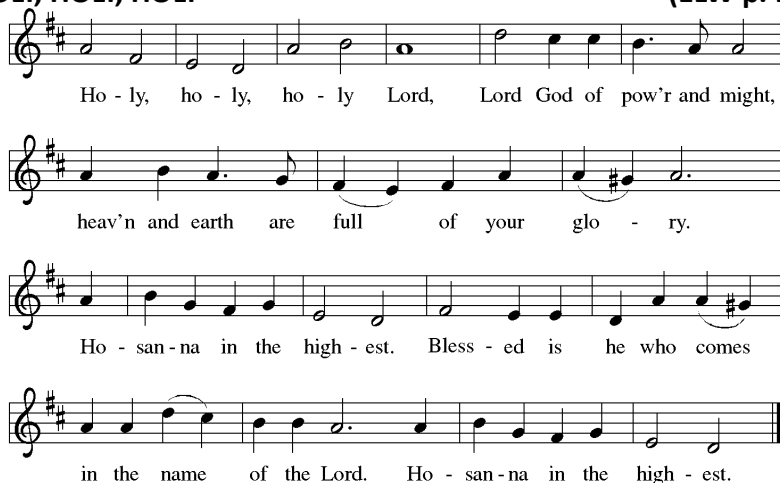
***PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of
everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

(ELW p. 153)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

(ELW p. 153)

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

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

***LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,**

thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION SONG:

(Page 154)



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS:

"I Am the Bread of Life"

ELW 485

Text: Suzanne Toolan, rsm, b. 1927, based on John 6; Music: Suzanne Toolan, RSM; Text and music © 1966 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted under OneLicense.net 1-708142 All rights reserved.

- 1 "I am the Bread of life.
You who come to me shall not hunger,
and who believe in me shall not thirst.
No one can come to me unless the Father beckons."

Refrain

**"And I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day."**

- 2 "The bread that I will give
is my flesh for the life of the world,
and if you eat of this bread,
you shall live forever, you shall live forever." ***Refrain***

- 3 "Unless you eat
of the flesh of the Son of Man
and drink of his blood,
and drink of his blood,
you shall not have life within you." ***Refrain***

- 4 "I am the resurrection,
I am the life.
If you believe in me,
even though you die, you shall live forever." ***Refrain***

- 5 Yes, Lord, I believe
that you are the Christ,
the Son of God,
who have come into the world. ***Refrain***

“Blessed Assurance”

ELW 638

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915; Music: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830-1908; public domain.



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

*TABLE BLESSING

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

Amen.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

*BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

Amen.

*SENDING SONG

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

ELW 815

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1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Ringling of the Bell

Postlude

For streaming and printing:

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Those Serving in Today's Service

Pastor: Eric Klimpel

Accompanist: Mindy DeVries

Youth Liaison: Nels Dovre

Lector: McKenzie Bushaw

Technicians: Brent Emerson, Owen Williams

Altar Guild: Helen Kepler and Melanie Fausch

Communion Assistants: Kristin Shelton and Julie Emerson

This Week at Palestine

Sunday, August 17th, 2025 *Tenth Sunday of Pentecost*

9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion

New member orientation

1:30 p.m. Volunteer @ Gardening for Good

Tuesday, August 19th, 2025

10:00 a.m. Area Pastor's Study

6:00 p.m. Christian Ed Meeting

7:00 p.m. Bible Study via Zoom

Wednesday, August 20th, 2025

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

12:30 p.m. Prayer Support Group

2:00 p.m. North Polk Ministerial Mtg (*Pastor*)

Sunday, August 24th, 2025 *Eleventh Sunday of Pentecost*

9:00 a.m. Prairie Fest Community worship @ Railroad Park
(rain venue Nord Kalsem)

9:30 a.m. **NO WORSHIP AT PALESTINE DUE TO PRAIRIE FEST
COMMUNITY WORSHIP**

1:30 p.m. Volunteer @ Gardening for Good

5:30 p.m. Theology on Tap @ Flight – **NOTE** new venue change

Lectionary texts: Isaiah 58:9b-14; Psalm 103: 1-8; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

Thank you for your Gifts for Ministry:

August 10th, 2025

General: 4.485.00

Fellowship: \$5.00

Attendance: 59

Benevolence: \$5.00

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



Palestine will accept your offering!

1. **Bring** to worship service with you and place in offering plates.
2. **Mail** check to:
Palestine Lutheran Church
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. **OR** scan the QR code to
take you right to our tithing page.
4. **Text GIVE** to 515-207-6435.



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



JOIN US ON ALTAR GUILD OR AS A COMMUNION ASSISTANT!!

Communion Helpers or Help Serve Communion Volunteers Needed—Twice a Month! Would you be willing to lend a hand in preparing and setting up Communion? We're looking for a few caring volunteers to assist two times a month a couple of months a year. This task is simple, doesn't require a large time commitment, and makes a meaningful impact.

Interested? Reach out to **Jen Pote** and join us in this simple but meaningful act of service. 515-229-5481 Email: majekaspka@hotmail.com

 *Your help matters—and we'd love to have you!*



THEOLOGY ON TAP

Question freely. Think deeply. Drink a little.

Join us Sunday, August 24th
from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
@Flight – **NOTE** new venue change!



Hello! Iowa Gardening for Good is a 501(c)(3) that grows and donates fresh food for local food pantries, food banks, and other charitable outlets. Located just outside of Madrid in Central Iowa, our organization offers great volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups of all ages looking to make a difference in the lives of others.

Iowa Gardening for Good cannot operate without willing volunteers, and we would love for you to consider working with us!

Iowa Gardening for Good offers flexibility in all things volunteering: timing, consistency, group size, tasks, and more! We would love for you to consider joining us to make a difference in Central Iowa and surrounding areas. Please check out the attached flyer to learn more about us and how you can get involved! Contact Tracy Blackmer (515-460-4914 or tracy@iowagardeningforgood.com) with further questions. With your help, we can make a difference.

Sincerely,
The Iowa Gardening for Good Interns



Palestine Confirmation Parent Meeting
Wednesday, August 27th at 6:30 p.m. in
the conference room.

For parents of incoming 7th and 8th grade confirmation students to discuss class, curriculum, expectations and events for the coming academic year. 9th grade parents are not included in this meeting.

Tentative date for confirmation classes to begin is
Wednesday, September 10th.

Prairie Fest 2025

Please make plans to join us for **Pie, Brownie & Ice Cream Social** on **Saturday, August 23rd** from 5:30 – 8:00 pm!

- Baked goods can be store bought or made from scratch!
- Drop off your donation at the church before 4pm on Saturday, August 23 or bring to the tent at Prairie Fest after 5pm.
- There is a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall for donations and servers or a link on the weekly announcements.
- Free-will donations from this event support church activities and outreach.
- This is one of the most popular ways Palestine reaches out to the community and your support is appreciated!



Join us Sunday, August 24th at 9 a.m. for a community worship service @ Railroad Park with the rain venue at the Nord Kalsem in Huxley.

PLEASE NOTE ➡ There will be **NO** worship at Palestine on August 24th due to the community service.

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

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

It's So Confusing (based on Luke 12)

Entering someone else's conversation halfway through can be disorienting. You don't know the context, and you're confused about the background, so you can't really make heads or tails of what's being discussed. Today's gospel reading is kind of like that experience. It's so confusing to hear Jesus talk like this!

But if we're honest with ourselves, we know our world is already full of the divisions Jesus describes. Political divisions have only deepened. Religious divisions cause people to talk over one another. We encounter racial divisions that we're afraid to talk about or even acknowledge, and economic divisions that isolate people according to status and means. Yes, our world is already full of divisions. And what about the tone of this gospel reading? Jesus' sayings are so provocative! With the kind of rhetoric being thrown around in our world today, do we need more alarming words?

When we look closely at the reading and pay attention to the context, we can get a better idea of what exactly Jesus is proposing in these inflammatory sayings. Notice the divisions he mentions here: divisions within families. In the context of the ancient world, the family was the central unit of connection and the source of your identity. The family told you who you were and how you could (or could not) operate.

It is into that kind of ordering, the foundation of identity, that Jesus brings disruption. His point is that in the kingdom of God, whether you were born into wealth or poverty, a family of prestige or one of pandemonium, you are God's beloved child. The message of God in Christ breaks up the social boxes and social games of this world, erasing the dividing lines we already set up for ourselves.

In the death and resurrection of Christ, we're all united in God's family, enjoying a new ordering of identity that breaks down what divides us.