

ADVENT

THE
WORD
MADE
FLESH



 *Palastine*
Lutheran Church

Reaching out in Christian love to all!

**THE PALESTINE PRESS
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

DECEMBER 2024



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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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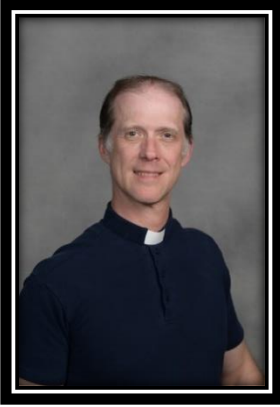


Tithes & Offering

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.



Birthing the New @ Christmas

With Pastor Eric

⁸ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.” - Mark 13:8

³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! – 1 Thessalonians 5:3

Well at Men’s Bible Study recently, someone asked in all seriousness, “What is a birth pang? Is it pain? Or maybe something else?” I mentioned this question to a new mother who glared at me and responded, “Be thankful that you will never know or experience a pang!”

Jesus talks about the end of time and the second coming as a birthing process. Besides the parallel passage in Mt 24:8, the image of "birth pangs" and the coming of Jesus is used by Paul in 1 Thess 5:3. He emphasizes the surprise and suddenness of the coming. When our children were conceived, we knew that labor pains would be coming and a birth to follow. We didn't know exactly when it would happen or how long the labor would last, or how we would cope with that suffering -- and the new creation it produced. We knew it was coming. We waited expectedly and excitedly for it. We also had some fear and trembling wondering what kind of parents we would be. The scriptures promise that there will be an end to suffering but the labor has been long! In fact, we begin to imagine life differently while pregnant, don't we? We begin nesting – rearranging rooms, buying a different car, trying out names like mom and dad, and many times changing locations

for better schools or younger neighborhoods. With new beginnings with hope and promise comes the endings of other things, and those ending mean gone but probably not forgotten.

The Christmas story is simply a “birthing narrative” centered on an actual birth and the beginnings and endings that come with it. Anyone with children or were children 😊 can identify with the new thing that God has done in Jesus our Christ. And yes, there was pain and suffering, pangs, involved along the way – Mary pregnant before the proper time of marriage, Elizabeth pregnant well into her later years, no place in the inn, Mary traveling on a donkey 65 miles to Bethlehem at 9 months, Herod is out to slaughter children in Bethlehem, and the holy family having to flee for their lives to another country. We cannot forget these parts of this story as labor pains which will lead to something new!

Remember that Jesus’s world existed without medications and well before modern medicine. Mothers and babies died quite often in the process and many children were blessed to live past 3 years old. Every birth was a life-altering event in every way possible – a true miracle and then Jesus came! Jesus will come again in a similar way with “birth pangs” preceding him, but don’t be afraid because God has control just as God did the first time. God might be birthing something or someone in your life this season. Everything will be alright. Do not be afraid! Nothing is impossible for God – not a virgin birth and not resurrection from the dead!

Let us pray. Gracious God, breathe life into our holiday time amidst the hectic schedules and celebrations, give us deep joy and hope in the new creation that you birth into being. May we remember our new birth by baptism and our renewed life by your Spirit this miracle season, in Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

GET INVOLVED

ZOOM Bible Study

Tuesdays from 7:00pm – 8:00pm – The Word Made Flesh – An Advent Study - In this Bible study for Advent, participants focus on the concept of Jesus as the Word Made Flesh. Study and discussion questions, prayers and reflections highlight the earthly substances of bread, salt, rock and light in relation to the qualities of Christ. Begins Tuesday, Dec. 3 – Get booklets from the Fellowship Hall.

Men's Bible Study

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

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)

R.O.C.K. Group

For high school students. The R.O.C.K. Group will typically meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month from 6:30 – 8 p.m. In December, they will only meet on the 11th.

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 December 8th from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. at Fenceline Brewpub in Huxley, 107 S Main Ave, Huxley, IA 50124

New Member Orientation Meetings

December 8th after worship in the south conference room. 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



November 3rd





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

Advent Week 1

Focus: Coming of our Lord Jesus

“And may [the Lord] so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.” (1 Thessalonians 3:13 NRSV). Read 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Advent Week 2

Focus: Partners to the End

“I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.” Philippians 1:3-5 (NRSV). Read Philippians 1:3-11

Advent Week 3

Focus: Rejoice! The Lord is near!

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.” Philippians 4:4-5 (NRSV). Read Philippians 4:4-7

Advent Week 4

Focus: The Reason for the Season

“And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” Hebrews 10:10 (NRSV). Read Hebrews 10:5-10

Christmas 1

Focus: Wearing Your Baptism

“As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.” Colossians 3:12 (NRSV). Read Colossians 3:12-17

Congratulations to our Confirmands 10-27-24!



*Jax Richter, Owen Williams, Kaedence DeVries,
& Adaline Jolly*



*Aubrey Lewis
11-3-24*



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT PALESTINE

“The word made flesh” advent theme. Advent materials will be available in fellowship hall. The handbook is on our website. Pastor Eric has many resources available to us to prepare for Jesus:

- ❖ Advent Calendars, Devotion booklets, Family Devotions and Activities booklets, and the Holiday Resource Guide will be available in front of the sanctuary entrance in fellowship hall by the first Sunday of Advent.
- ❖ **Advent Wreath kits will be available December 1st.**
Donation for materials is appreciated.

Special Advent Offering: Each Sunday of Advent you are invited to contribute to our special advent offering. Please designate on your offering if you wish for it to be towards the special offering.

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2024

Addressing local food insecurity over the Holidays

The Huxley “Cupboard” Food Pantry

Donations of food items, or financial are welcome and can be made to the Palestine Lutheran Church (designate Huxley Food Pantry) or dropped off in the North Hall.

Food Needs: *Canned fruit, SpaghettiOs, Ravioli, Canned meat, Spaghetti sauce, Chunk soups, Helper Meals, Jelly, Peanut butter, Juice (fruit & veggie), Kraft Mac n Cheese, Mashed potatoes, Knorr sides, Deodorant, Shampoo/body wash, General cleaners, Toilet paper, Detergent pacs/pods*

Donated items may be dropped off during regular hours or dropped in the North Hall at Palestine Lutheran Church.

Blue Christmas: Wednesday, December 18th 7 p.m. @ Palestine

Christmas Eve: *Nativity of Our Lord*; Holy Communion
4:00 p.m. (*livestreamed*) (family worship)
7:00 p.m. (acoustic worship)

Christmas Day: *Nativity of Our Lord*; *Pre-recorded message available on our website under the livestream tab.*



December 2024

- 3 Daphne Wendt
- 4 Jody Calvert
- 5 Austin Klimpel
- Travis Young
- 11 Laurie Hill
- 12 Crystal Hughes
- Lora Young
- 15 Owen Williams
- 18 Grant Klingbeil
- Andrew Polich
- 19 Michael Brixius
- Spencer Wise
- 20 Brian Harleen
- 21 Louise Larson (78)
- 22 Jax Richter
- 24 Whitney Larson
- 25 Tim Wilson
- 27 Marvin Sorensen (91)
- 28 Cody Fausch
- Ben Larson
- Rafe Madson
- 29 Max Clark
- Harold Rittgers (94)
- 31 Gulnara Brixius
- Penn Hill
- Adaline Jolly



Let's shower the following members with birthday cards:

- 27 Marvin Sorensen (91st)
- 29 Harold Rittgers (95th)

See mailed newsletter for addresses.



- 5 Bill & Sandy Harleen
- 10 Joseph & Emilee Thomas
- 19 Scott & Alyssa Johnson 15th
- Mike & Cindi Thomas
- 21 Kim & Bob Jensen
- 27 Donna & Mike Lisowski

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



ALTAR GUILD: Helen Kepler & Jen Pote

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

December 1st: Leonard & Sue Larson

December 15th: Bruce Hartman & Marlys Hartman

December 24th 4 p.m.: David & Vallery Eisenmann

December 24th 7 p.m.:

USHERS: various on sign up

OFFERING COUNTERS: Holly Twedt; Doreen Blackmer

GREETERS*:

December 1st: Brent & Missy Larson, Chris & Rich Nelson

December 8th: Ben & Candi Engler, Scott & Alyssa Johnson

December 15th: Jason & Melinda Kam, Chris & Amanda Richter

December 22nd: Darin & Katie Madson, Doug & Lori Schonhorst

December 29th: *If you are here and can greet, please do!*

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

JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 <small>Wednesday Eve</small>	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 <small>Full moon</small>	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 <small>Mid-winter</small>	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
1 <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion <i>Music with Nels</i> 6:00 p.m. Christmas program rehearsal KICK	2	3 10:00 a.m. Rock Creek Worship (Pastor) 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study
8 <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> 8:00 a.m. Council Meeting 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship <i>Music with Nels</i> New member orientation Sr. Tea 5:30 p.m. Theology on Tap 6:00 p.m. Christmas program rehearsal KICK	9	10 10:00 a.m. Area Pastor's Study 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study
15 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion <i>Music with Nels</i> Christmas program rehearsal until 12:15 4:30 p.m. Christmas program with meal to follow	16 <i>Newsletter deadline</i>	17 10:00 a.m. Area Pastor's Study 1:00 p.m. Cedars Worship (Pastor) 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study
22 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy communion	23	24 10:00 a.m. Area Pastor's Study 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service; Holy Communion 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service; Holy Communion
29 <i>First Sunday of Christmas</i> 9:30 a.m. Worship	30	31 10:00 a.m. Area Pastor's Study 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study

DECEMBER 2024

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	5	6	7 9 – Noon Christmas Cookie Extravaganza
11 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. Confirmation 6:30 p.m. ROCK	12	13	14
18 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:30 p.m. Prayer Support Group 1:00 p.m. Quilters 2:00 p.m. North Polk Ministerial Mtg (<i>Pastor</i>) 7:00 p.m. Blue Christmas @ Palestine	19 11:00 a.m. Ballard Ministerial Mtg (<i>Pastor</i>)	20	21
25 Christmas Day 	26	27	28
1 Happy New Year! 	2	3	4



COUNCIL MINUTES

See mailed newsletter for council minutes.

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Remember in Prayer

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

Kristy Brownfield, Adrienne Brown, Matt Carver, Marlys Hartman, Crystal Hughes, Alice Kahler, Betsy Johnson, Judy McKinney, Larry Pote, Havanna Roelfs, Lisa Rose, Jean Sandquist, Tim Shoemaker, Omar Tesdell, Ramsey Tesdell

Family and friends of: Arleta Wilson, Gary Davis, Shirley Saveraid, Clara Eisenmann, Dan Eisenmann, Dena Bloodsworth, Charles Bowers, Sarah Piper, Helen Miller, Jacob Leedom, Dan Bushaw, Elaine Paradise, Charlize Flick, Lee Briggs, Thomas Noll, Linda Lewis, Roger Larson, Sally Greve, Krisha Barrett, Dick Cast, Cheryl Shranklen, Marge Sheldahl



Empowering people to
save starving children

CONFIRMATION SERVICE PROJECT

October 30th





Tusen Takk!

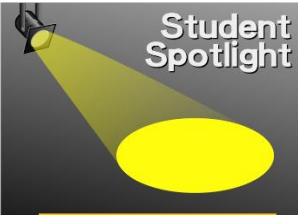
Thank you to everyone that provided salads, desserts, peeled potatoes, made kumla balls and helped in the kitchen. We also appreciate those that came to eat or order. We served 108 dine-in and 164 carry out orders with 26 volunteers!



Thanks to K.I.C.K. Kumla servers



Remembering . . .
(2022)



COLLEGE/MILITARY UPDATES:

This month we are featuring:

Colby Calvert

Colby is attending the University of Iowa and is a junior this year. He is majoring in sport and recreation management with a Leadership Studios Minor. Colby is the head manager of Iowa Men's Basketball.



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.



BOOK REVIEW

I recently checked out *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23* by W. Phillip Keller from the church library to use as a morning devotional. The description (*As a shepherd, Phillip Keller shares his insights into the life and character of sheep and of the Good Shepherd who loves and cares for them...*) intrigued me. While I don't have experience raising sheep in particular, I have cared for a wide variety of other animals over the years, and it never ceases to amaze me how lessons learned from raising animals can relate to God's Word. That and the idea of God as a loving, caring shepherd has always resonated with me, so I decided to see what this book was all about.

I found it to be an easy read, with short chapters breaking down the Psalm verse by verse. The author draws on his own experiences of raising and working with sheep, as well as providing insight into what the original author of the Psalm (David, also a shepherd) may have truly been trying to articulate. While it was originally published in 1970, I found it to still be greatly relevant and relatable to present day, and was pleasantly surprised by the fresh insight I learned about this iconic piece of scripture. I highly recommend giving it a try if you're looking for an uplifting, easy read this winter. You may even find yourself singing, "I just wanna be a sheep, bah, ba-ba, bah", like I did!

McKenzie Bushaw



Christmas Extravaganza
Saturday, December 7th
9 a.m. - noon

**The R.O.C.K. Group is hosting their annual
Christmas Extravaganza!**

A sign up to donate goodies is in fellowship hall!



Senior Tea
Sunday,
December 8th
Following worship

*Invitations were mailed
and RSVP's requested.*



College Scholarships

Treasurer, Deidre Qual, reminds college students desiring to receive a Palestine scholarship that they **must notify the church office by letter or e-mail** of their name, address and college or

vocational school **by December 15th**. Email:

palestinelutheran@gmail.com Mailing address: PO BOX 189,
Huxley, IA 50124



K.I.C.K. UPCOMING EVENTS

All 3rd-6th graders are invited to participate in this group.

- **Christmas Program Practice Schedule:**
 - Sunday, December 1st: 6 p.m. Snack provided
 - Sunday, December 8th: 6 p.m. Snack provided
 - Wednesday, December 11th: 5:30 p.m. meal, 6 p.m. practice
 - Sunday, December 15th: after worship until 12:15
- **Sunday, December 15th: Christmas Program**

4:30 p.m. Special music – *if you would like to sing, play an instrument or the piano, let one of the KICK Advisors know!*

5:00 p.m. Program

Meal to follow – *free-will offering*

→ All program participants are asked to bring one dozen cookies or treats to share for the meal.

Contact a K.I.C.K. Advisor with any questions:

Erika Williams
515-229-7897

Shannon Wilson
515-450-7002

Shelley Klingbeil
641-777-1908

**JOIN US for our Christmas program Sunday, Dec. 15th
at 4:30 p.m. with a meal to follow.**





Here is a list of Palestine Members who are 85 or older (*), widowed the last 2 years, and/or homebound to some degree. Please consider sending a Christmas card!

*Bernadine Cast	Ken Larson
*Nancy Fausch	*Vivian Lundgren
*Marlys Hartman	and Norma McBride
*Dolores Hauge	*Judy McKinney
Virgil Larson	*Harold Rittgers
*Leona Larson	*Marvin Sorensen
*Ronald and *Rosalie Locker	Sandy Wirtz

See mailed newsletter for addresses

Palatine Lutheran Church
1375 HWY 210
PO BOX 189
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