

P R E P A R E Y E



Pray



December 7th, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

Reaching Out in Christian Love to All

1375 Highway 210

P.O. Box 189

Huxley, IA 50124

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2nd Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 7th, 2025

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

*=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.

But as for me, my prayer is to you, O Lord. At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me. Psalm 69:13

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

God promises to be with us and keep us wherever we go.

He will not leave us until he has done what he has promised.

Surely the Lord is in this place!

This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

For God sent John the Baptist—

To turn the hearts of parents to their children.

To make ready a people prepared!

Confession & Forgiveness

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry—

Too real to hide, and too deep to undo.

Forgive what our lips tremble to name.

What our hearts can no longer bear.

And what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.

As parents, we have not fully loved our children.

As children, we have not fully loved our parents.

Set us free from a past that we cannot change.

Open to us a future where we can be changed.

And grant us grace to grow more and more in the image and likeness of Jesus. Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

Surely the Lord is in this place as the God of love and kindness who forgives you, frees you, heals you, strengthens you and raises you up to new life in Christ Jesus our Lord. He also sends his Holy Spirit to turn the hearts of parents to their children.

To make ready a people prepared!

Community, I invite you to join me in a space of imagination and wonder. Family comes about in many different ways: through marriage, through adoption and foster care, through chosen family. Tonight we are asked to support someone who is going through a rough time. His fiancée is pregnant with someone else's baby, and he's wondering what to do.

Reflection Questions for this Week

- What do you think it was like for Joseph to realize Mary was pregnant?
- What does Joseph gain by stepping openly into a position of care and taking a risky step that many would see as disgraceful?

- When have you unexpectedly faced a call to care for someone as family? What difficulties and blessings did you find?

Light Advent Candle 2

This week we light two candles and think about all the ways God calls us to partnership. We light these candles in gratitude for companions in the pilgrimage on earth.

Amen.

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

ELW 254

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788; Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net 1-708142 All rights reserved.



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



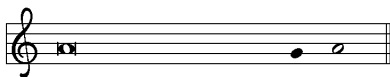
from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



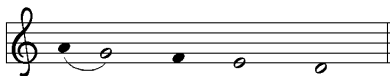
Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev-'ry na-tion, joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



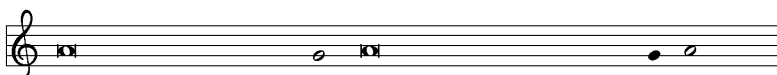
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



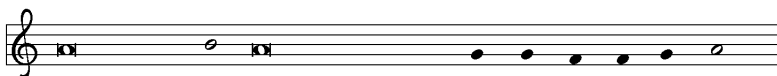
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



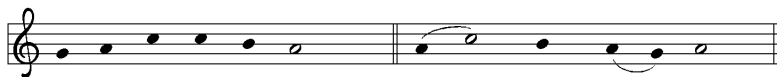
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

- ¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- ² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,

- ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

- ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

- ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;

the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;

² that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;

³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴ Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.

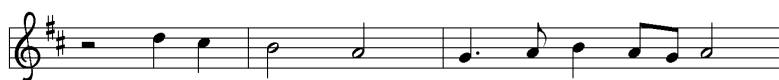
⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

⁶ Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.

⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish;
**and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon
shall be no more.**

¹⁸ Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;
you alone do wondrous deeds!

¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 3rd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree

that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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

1st & 2nd grade – Upstairs to the left

3rd & 4th grades – Upstairs to the left

5th & 6th grades – Downstairs

SERMON

HYMN OF THE MONTH: “Night of Silence” W&P 101 verse 1

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Night of Silence



1 Cold are the peo - ple, win - ter of life; we
2 Voice in the dis - tance, call in the night; on
3 Spir - it a - mong us, shine like the star; your



trem - ble in shad - ows this cold end - less night.
wind you en - fold us, you speak of the light.
light that guides shep - herds and kings from a - far



Fro - zen in the snow lie ros - es sleep - ing.
Glen - gle on the ear you whis - per soft - ly
shim - mer in the sky so emp - ty, lone - ly,



flow - ers that will ech - o the sun - rise;
ru - mors of a dawn so em - brac - ing;
ris - ing in the warmth of the Son's love;



fire of hope is our on - ly warmth;
breath - less love a - waits dark - ned souls;
star un - know - ing of night and day;



wea - ry, its flame will be dy - ing soon,
soon will we know of the morn - ing.
Spir - it, we wait for the lov - ing Son.



PRESENTATION

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to make public affirmation of baptism into Christ.

Lindsay Mitchell, Luke Mitchell, Alex Mitchell

Austin and Ashley Hillebo

Kris and Rita Peterson

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism. The assembly may stand and join in the responses.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce

e the devil and all the forces that defy God,
the powers of this world that rebel against God,
and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

AFFIRMATION

When the assembly is making affirmation of baptism, the presiding minister addresses them.

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

The assembly makes affirmation:

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

The presiding minister prays for God's blessing.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the

spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever.

Amen.

Welcome

Those being welcomed face the assembly. A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.

Let us welcome our brothers and sisters in Christ to this community of faith.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

As a sign of our welcome and support, please accept this gifts to help remind you of God's promises and your new life with us in Christ.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

Response: God of grace,
 Hear our prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

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 HYMN: “To You, O Lord, Psalm 1 for Advent” *Sr. Choir*

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*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, 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.

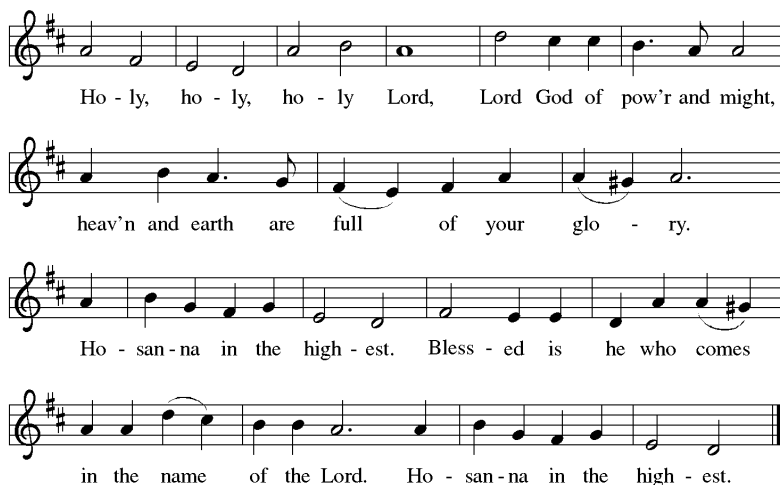
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*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.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

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:

Page 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**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.

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.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION

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:

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

ELW 256

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635-1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.; Music: *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551; public domain.



On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

*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.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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

*BLESSING

May God's peace attend you this night. Whatever challenges you face, know that you are never alone. The triune God—Holy Spirit as close as breath, ✠ Christ drawing near in comfort, and Creator granting courage—watch over us all.

Amen.

* SENDING SONG

"Joy to the World"

ELW 267

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748; Music: English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872; public domain.



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Children are dismissed to go downstairs for music with Nels

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: Matt Williams

Acolytes: Samantha Ewing;

Altar Guild: Lesa Lewis; Jen Pote

Communion Assistants: Leonard and Sue Larson

Technicians: Brent Emerson, Owen Williams

This Week at Palestine

Today, December 7th, 2025 *Second Sunday of Advent*

8:00 a.m. Council Mtg

8:30 a.m. Choir

9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion

Music with Nels

Sr. Tea

6:00 – 7:30 p.m. K.I.C.K. Christmas program practice

Tuesday, December 9th, 2025

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

7:00 p.m. Bible Study via Zoom

Wednesday, December 10th, 2025

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

12:30 p.m. Prayer Support Group

1:00 p.m. Quilters

5:30 p.m. K.I.C.K. meal followed by Christmas program practice

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

Thursday, December 11th, 2025

6:30 – 8:00 p.m. GriefShare Support Group @ Huxley Library

Sunday, December 14th, 2025 *Third Sunday of Advent*

8:30 a.m. Choir

9:30 a.m. Worship

Music with Nels

Cookie Sunday

Christmas program rehearsal preschool – 6th grades until noonish

4:30 p.m. Christmas program

Community meal following program

Lectionary texts: Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; James 5:7-10;

Matthew 11:2-11

Thank you for your Gifts for Ministry:

Sunday, November 23, 2025:

General: 3,112.00

Attendance: 111

Benevolence: \$105.00

Sunday, November 30, 2025:

General: \$1,550.00

Attendance: 15

Youth Group: \$12,500.00

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
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.

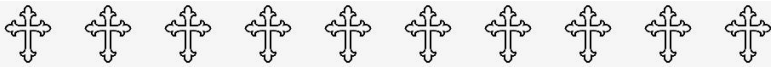


Thank you. Continue to pray and know God is with us.



*Senior Tea
Today, Sunday,
December 7th
Following worship*

Invitations were mailed and
RSVP's requested.



**We welcome our newest members into
Our Palestine family:**

Lindsay Mitchell, Luke Mitchell, Alex Mitchell

Austin and Ashley Hillebo

Kris and Rita Peterson



**R.O.C.K.
FUNDRAISER!**

Purchase your raffle tickets to be the lucky winner of a beautiful *Julie Huxford original* Winter patio planter!

\$10 per raffle.

Purchase after worship
until **drawing**
December 14th!





2025 Advent Wreath Kits will be available at Palestine Nov 30th to assemble.

The Advent Wreath, rich in symbolism, is a powerful visual aid used in moving through the four Sundays of Advent while remembering the reason for the season: Jesus Christ.

With no beginning and no end, the circular nature of the wreath testifies to God himself. His eternity, and endless love and mercy for humanity have no beginning or end.

Four candles surround the Advent wreath; one for each week of Advent. These four candles symbolized the four centuries of waiting between the prophet Malachi's telling of the coming day of the Lord and the birth of the Christ Child. The lighting of these candles symbolizes the light of God coming into the world through the birth of his son, Jesus, Light of the World.

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 2025

Children & Families of Iowa

FAMILY ADVENT DEVOTIONS 2025 – ELCA GOOD GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAY. School supplies for a classroom. Far too many of the world's children don't go to school because they can't afford the supplies. By providing school books, paper and pencils, you provide the building blocks for a brighter future. \$300 for classroom of 30, \$10 per child



Blue Christmas Worship

Prayer of Lament & Hope



**Special Candle lighting Service for those
Struggling with Grief & Loss this Season**

**Thursday, December 11th @ 7:00pm
Trinity United Methodist Church**

While Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels hopeful or like celebrating. Grief, illness, aging, depression, loneliness, unemployment, and loss are magnified. Even those who are not struggling with losses may feel the stress of preparations and expectations around Christmas time. A Longest Night/Blue Christmas service may provide a time and place of solace during the often frenetic days surrounding the celebration of Christmas. We come together seeking healing and room to share grief, sadness, loneliness, or confusion when these emotions often feel out of place during the holidays.



K.I.C.K. Upcoming Activities - Fun, Fellowship & Service!

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

- **Christmas Program Practice - Starts November 30!** Our Christmas program will be on December 14, and we will start practicing songs after worship with Nels in early November.

Practices will be for grades 3-6 on the following dates/times:

- Sunday, December 7th 6-7:30 PM - Snack provided
- Wednesday, December 10th - 5:30 PM meal, 6-7:30 practice
- Sunday, December 14th 10:30 AM-12 noon - final practice with all kids PreK-grade 6
- Program:
 - 4:30 Special Music
 - 5:00 Program
 - Meal to follow, served by Confirmation families



We will send out a sign-up for volunteers and snack/meal donations for our practices. All program participants are requested to bring a dozen cookies to share for the meal. ROCK kids are encouraged to help us and earn service hours.

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

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Join us Wednesday,
December 24th for worship:

4 p.m. & 7 p.m. with Holy
Communion
(4 p.m. is livestreamed)



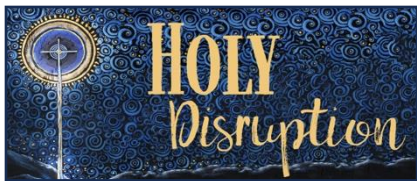
Thanks to those of you who have so generously supported the ministries of our church through your financial gifts! We are grateful for all that you have offered and for all the good things we've been able to do in Jesus' name because of them. Don't forget that your gifts are tax deductible but must be received by December 31st to qualify for a 2024 deduction.



The annual meeting is scheduled for
January 18, 2026.

Deadline for submitting annual reports
is January 4, 2026!

(Please submit in word format to palestinelutheran@gmail.com)



Advent Wreath Blessing - Holy

Disruption – Advent carries two simultaneous visions of our expectations: we await yet again the birth of the babe in the

manger, and we also await Christ's coming again to fulfill all things. We often prepare for Advent by "getting ready": planning, organizing, and ordering supplies for various gatherings and worship services. Yet preparing for the coming of Christ is not a matter of having everything under control. Christ's arrival disrupts—disrupts injustice, sin, and brokenness in a society in which we are deeply embedded. A prayer for Christ to come to us is a prayer for a holy disruption of our lives that we cannot control and that we might struggle to accept.

This candle blessing is built around four steps to help us recognize our resistance to God's inbreaking and prepare for God's holy disruption: breathing, releasing, receiving, and rejoicing. Each week's liturgy will focus on one step. Although worshipers can benefit from each service individually, each step builds upon the ones preceding. Together they form a spiritual discipline that reminds us that discipleship is always a process requiring intentional practice. Advent, the first season of the church year, reminds us to return to our sense of longing for and expectation of God's coming into our world. In this worship series we pay attention to opening ourselves to the holy disruption of God's inbreaking promise.



2ND SUNDAY OF *Advent*



Help Us Serve You Better – Quick Church Survey

Dear Church Family,
We value your presence and your voice
in our community. To help us grow

together and better meet the needs of our congregation, we've created a short survey—and we'd be truly grateful if you'd take a few minutes to share your thoughts. We are interested in the thoughts of all family members including your 14- to 18-year-old youth. Please share this link with them as well as other adults in your family that may not have received this email.



Scan here for the survey.

Your feedback is imperative and will help guide future events, ministries, and outreach efforts. Whether you've been with us for years or just joined, your perspective matters deeply.

Thank you for being a vital part of our church family.
Blessings,

Palestine Lutheran Church

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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Turning and Mending (Again) (*based on Matthew 3*)

Being on the receiving end of sharp language can be heartbreaking. Indeed, words can wound—or worse. John the Baptizer, a key figure in our Advent narratives, finds himself at odds with other religious leaders of the time, and uses the tool he has (language) to call attention to their broken relationship. It's unclear what exactly led to this prickly, pointed exchange between John and the Pharisees and Sadducees, but there is a growing chasm between them.

“Prepare the way of the Lord,” John cries out in the wilderness, echoing the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah cried out in his own day centuries prior, testifying to God's desire to mend the world (though the world seemed to be at an end). Perhaps John repeats Isaiah's plea in order to remind the people of his day of God's intent for all things: for the world to be mended, healed, made right; for the reign of heaven to be revealed on earth, here and now. Often, however, mending brokenness requires honesty first about the wounds that have been inflicted and the death that has been wrought. With John's painful honesty, his strained relationship with other leaders of his time takes a step toward healing, toward justice, so that a new beginning might take hold. This is a starting point, as difficult as it may be.

Every Advent, as the church year begins again, we hear the familiar call: *Repent. Turn back to God.* Repentance is no easy thing, but thankfully, God draws us back to this imperative, year after year, day after day, hour after hour. With infinite mercy, once again God invites us to turn toward healing, toward justice, toward the righting of the world, one relationship at a time.