



 **Palestine**
Lutheran Church

February 8th, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Epiphany

Reaching Out in Christian Love to All

1375 Highway 210

P.O. Box 189

Huxley, IA 50124

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Fifth Sunday of Epiphany

February 8th, 2026

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

*=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**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our 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.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we

have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

***GATHERING SONG**

“Gather Us In”

ELW 532

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Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
 Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name,
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song,
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true,
 fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

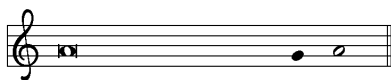
*GREETING

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

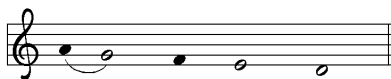
And also with you.

***KYRIE**

setting 4, page 147



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



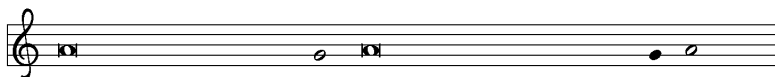
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



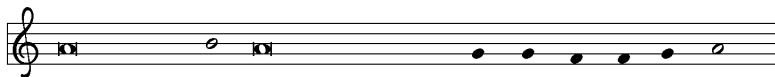
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

setting 4, page 148



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

¹ Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.

³ “Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.

⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you;
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

^{9a} Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

^{9b} If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.

¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 112:1-9 [10]

- ¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD
and have great delight in God's commandments!
- ² Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.
- ³ Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.
- ⁴ Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.
- ⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.
- ⁶ For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.
- ⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.
- ⁸ Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.
- ⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness
stands fast forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.
- ¹⁰ The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth
and pine away;
the desires of the wicked will perish.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.

¹ When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him” —

¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. [¹³ And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴ Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

¹⁶ "For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?"
But we have the mind of Christ.]

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

page 151



*GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-20

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 5th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.

[Jesus said:] ¹³ "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before

others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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

7th & 8th grades – Conference room

SERMON

HMYN OF THE DAY:

“Borning Cry”

ELW 732

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Borning Cry



1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.
 2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
 3 "In the mid-dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



I re - joiced the day you were hap-tized to see your life un - fold.
 you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.
 I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
 If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
 When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."
 I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
 I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were hap-tized to see your life un - fold."



HOLY BAPTISM

In baptism we are made one with Christ and with the whole people of God. On behalf of the whole church, we promise support to new sisters and brothers, confess the faith with them, and

welcome them into the body of Christ. Water connected to the Word-God's saving promise in Jesus Christ is at the center of the baptismal celebration.

Guy Gilbert Longnecker

Griffin Roy Longnecker

Guy and Griffin are the sons of Garrett and Ellen Longnecker

Baptismal sponsors: Jennie Huxford; Kayle Wierson

PRESENTATION

Candidates for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather with the ministers at the font. The assembly is seated.

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word, God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors present the candidate:

We present Guy and Griffin for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses parents:

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have *Guy and Griffin* baptized into Christ?

Parents' Response: I do.

The presiding minister continues:

As you bring *Guy and Griffin* to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with *them* among God's faithful people,
bring *them* to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach *them* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in *their* hands the holy scriptures,

and nurture *them* in faith and prayer,
so that *they* may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help *Guy and Griffin* grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents' Response: I do.

The presiding minister addresses sponsors:

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture *Guy and Griffin* in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help *them* live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors' Response: I do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

People of God, do you promise to support *Guy and Griffin* and pray for *them* in *their* new life in Christ?

Assembly: We do.

***PROFESSION OF FAITH**

The presiding minister addresses candidates for baptism as well as the parents and sponsors of young children. The assembly joins 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 the devil and all the forces that defy God?

ALL Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

ALL Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

ALL Response: I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.

Do you believe in God the Father?

ALL: 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.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

At the font, the presiding minister begins the thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.

ALL Response: And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL Response: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, holy God. You are the creator of the waters of the earth. You are the fire of rebirth. You poured out your Spirit on your people Israel. You breathe life into our dry bones. Your Son Jesus promised to send the Spirit to us that the world may know your peace and truth.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, and breathe new life into those who are here baptized. By your Spirit adopt us all as your children, through

our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ALL Response: Amen.

BAPTISM

Water is poured on the candidate's head, as the presiding minister says:

Guy Longnecker, I baptize you in the name of the Father,

Water is poured on the candidate's head a second time:

And of the Son,

Water is poured on the candidate's head a third time:

And of the Holy Spirit.

All Response: Amen.

The presiding minister continues:

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Laying both hands on the head of the newly baptized, the minister prays:

Sustain *Guy* with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, and the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

All Response: Amen.

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

Guy Longnecker, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

All Response: Amen.

WELCOME

A lighted candle is given to the sponsors of Guy as a representative of the congregation says:

Let your light so shine before others
That they may see your good works
And glorify your Father in heaven.



2nd BAPTISM

Water is poured on the candidate's head, as the presiding minister says:

*Griffin Longnecker, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
Water is poured on the candidate's head a second time:*

And of the Son,

Water is poured on the candidate's head a third time:

And of the Holy Spirit.

All Response: Amen.

The presiding minister continues:

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Laying both hands on the head of the newly baptized, the minister prays:

Sustain *Griffin* with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, and the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

All Response: Amen.

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

Griffin Longnecker, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

All Response: Amen.

WELCOME

A lighted candle is given to the sponsors of Griffin as a representative of the congregation says:

Let your light so shine before others
That they may see your good works
And glorify your Father in heaven.

The ministers and the baptismal group face the assembly. A representative of the congregation leads the assembly in the welcome.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Assembly: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

(Church representative) As a sign of our welcome and support, please accept these gifts of a faith chest, baptismal quilt, and rose to help remind you of God's promises and your new life with us in Christ.



*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

Response: Merciful God,
 receive our prayer.

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

Amen.

***PEACE**

OFFERING HYMN: "Make Me a Servant"

W&P 96

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F Dm⁷ Gm⁷ C⁷
 Make me a ser - vant, hum - ble and meek.
 Gm⁷ Bb/C C⁷ Bb/F F F sus⁴ F A
 Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
 Dm Dm/C G²/B Bbm⁶
 And may the prayer of my heart al - ways be:
 F/A Gm⁷ F/A Gm⁷
 Make me a ser - vant, make me a ser - vant,
 F/C C⁷ sus F²
 make me a ser - vant to - day.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves,

our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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.**

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.

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The musical score is written on five staves of music. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, using eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The lyrics are: "Go, make dis-ci-ples, bap-tiz-ing them, teach-ing them. Go, make dis-ci-ples, for I am with you till the end of time. Go, be the salt of the earth. Go, be the light for the world. Go, be a cit-y on a hill, so all can see that you're serv-ing me. Go, make dis-ci-ples."

"Go, make dis-ci-ples, bap-tiz-ing them, teach-ing them.

Go, make dis-ci-ples, for I am with you till the end of time.

Go, be the salt of the earth. Go, be the light for the world.

Go, be a cit-y on a hill, so all can see that you're

serv-ing me. Go, make dis-ci-ples."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Ring 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: Deb Moore

Acolyte: Anna Engler

Technicians: Brent Emerson, Owen Williams

This Week at Palestine

Sunday, February 8, 2026 *Fifth Sunday of Epiphany*

8:30 a.m. Choir

9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Baptism

Music with Nels

Cookie Sunday

Altar Guild Meeting and Training (rescheduled from Feb. 1st)

Family luncheon for baptism after worship

5:30 p.m. Theology on Tap @ Flight

Tuesday, February 10th, 2026

10:00 a.m. Area Pastor's Study (*Pastor*)

2:30 – 6:30 p.m. Blood Drive @ Palestine

7:00 p.m. Bible Study via Zoom

Wednesday, February 11th, 2026

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

12:30 p.m. Prayer Support Group

1:00 p.m. Quilting

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

6:30 p.m. R.O.C.K. Gather @ Palestine

Saturday, February 14th, 2026

7:00 p.m. Wartburg Winter Concert @ Grace E-Free Church in Huxley followed with refreshments

Sunday, February 15th, 2026 *Transfiguration of our Lord*

8:30 a.m. Choir

9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion

Music with Nels

New member orientation

Lectionary Texts: Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2; 2 Peter 1:16-21;

Matt 17:1-9

Thank you for your Gifts for Ministry:

Information from February 1st will be posted in the February 15th bulletin.

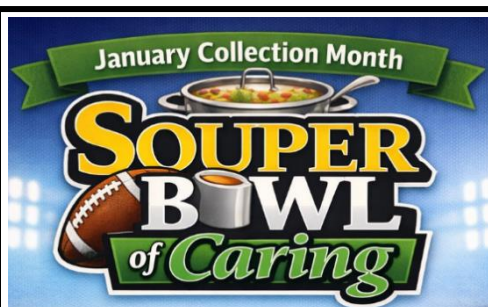
Tithes & Offering

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.



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

Help us tackle hunger—one can at a time!

HUXLEY COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH

2:30PM-6:30PM

Palestine Church
55971 IA-210 - Huxley



APPOINTMENTS ARE ENCOURAGED

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



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

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



THEOLOGY ON TAP

Question freely. Think deeply. Drink a little.

Join us Sunday, February 8th
at 5:30 p.m. @ Flight in
Huxley!



Ballard Clothing Pantry

March is Palestine's month to staff the Clothing Pantry. There will be a sign up in fellowship hall to sign up for shifts or you can go to our online sign up on our weekly announcements or at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rr8989x2djv_nfZufdFDSR_YeN0N27m4_B3FU-ifZU/edit?usp=sharing. The Clothing Pantry is a valuable service for many people in our community. It stays open only because of generous volunteers.

Please consider staffing at least one shift.



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

All are welcome! 7:00 p.m. (1 to 1-1/2 hour concert)

Chamber Choir and Chamber Strings concert

Reception to follow with free-will offering

(benefitting Ballard Music Boosters)



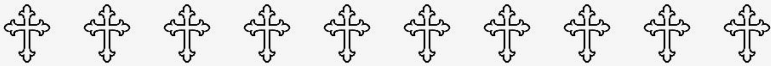
**Mark your calendars for Ash Wednesday
February 18th @ 7:00 p.m.**



First Communion Class

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

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



***We celebrate the baptisms of
Guy and Griffin Longnecker***

*We welcome them into the
Lord's family as
children of God!*

Born March 31, 2025

Baptized February 8, 2026



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.

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

The Lamp Is Already Lit (*based on Matthew 5*)

"This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine" (ELW 677). There's nothing quite like the joyous call and response of a whole congregation singing together the words of this beloved African American spiritual. The text and tune make it very hard to keep any lamps under a bushel basket!

In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus calls us to "let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). Many congregations use these words during the rite of Holy Baptism. But "Let *your* light shine" doesn't imply that the light belongs only to us or to the church. The first chapter of Genesis clarifies this. At the beginning of creation, God speaks light into existence, making light God's first gift to the whole world. In that light, God creates everything, including humankind, which is made in the divine image, according to God's likeness.

Living in harmony with God's word, letting our light shine with "good works" that glorify God, is not about striving for perfection. Because God's light has existed from the beginning, it is not something we earn or achieve for ourselves. We don't provide the spark that lights the lamp—it is already lit by God. Our job is to let the light shine. To be light for the world, then, is to be none other than who we have been from the beginning. Therein lies not only the fulfillment of God's word, but also our own fulfillment as God's children and light-bearers in the world.