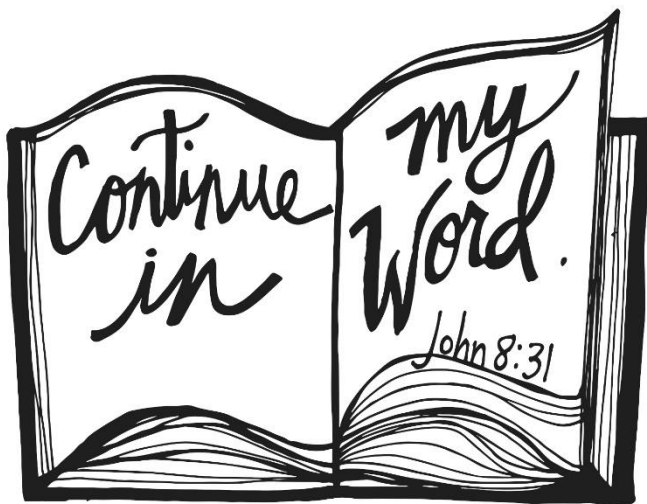




October 26th, 2025

Reformation Sunday

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

Reformation Sunday
Sunday, October 26th, 2025

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

*=Stand as you are able **Bold Print** = congregation responds
ELW=Red Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Prelude

Ring of the Bell

GATHERING The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

***GATHERING SONG "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" ELW 596**

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.; Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868; public domain.



- 1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;
- 2 When dark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace;
- 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus - tain me in the rag - ing flood;
- 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,



no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
in ev - ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil.
when all sup-ports are washed a-way, he then is all my hope and stay.
clothed in his righ-teous-ness a-lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

***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.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving 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: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put

my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

Paul’s words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ’s death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies

the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

page 151



***GOSPEL: John 8:31-36**

The Holy Gospel according to John the 8th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³ They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

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

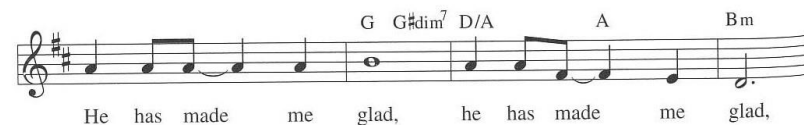
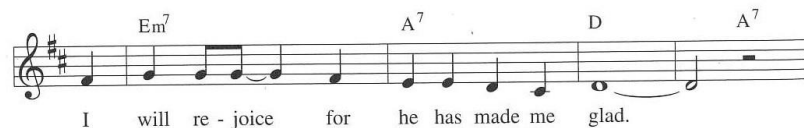
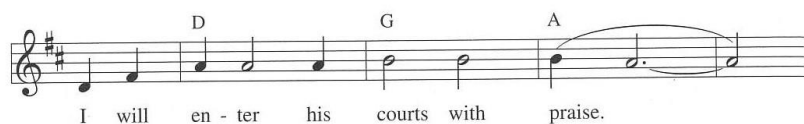
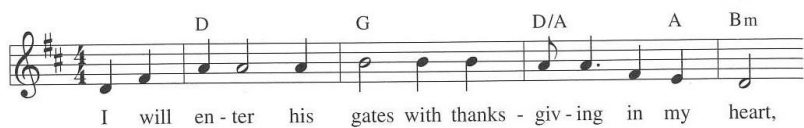
3rd & 4th grades – Upstairs to the left

5th & 6th grades – Downstairs

SERMON

HYMN OF THE MONTH “He Has Made Me Glad” W&P 54

AUTHORS Leona Von Brethorst; CCLI SONG #1493; CATALOG Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing; COPYRIGHTS 1976 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.); Reprinted under CCLI #2551458



***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

Response: God of grace,
 Receive our prayer.

We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation marks the completion of the congregation's program of confirmation ministry, a period of instruction in the Christian faith as confessed in the teachings of the Lutheran Church. Those who have completed this program were made members of the Church in Baptism. Confirmation includes a public profession of the faith into which the candidates were baptized, thus underscoring God's action in their Baptism.

Affirmation of Baptism

Kinsey Dean Calvert

(Sponsors are JD Kammin; Karla Dunagan)

Born November 24, 2010

Baptized January 31, 2011

First Communion April 14, 2022

Noelle Christine Hartsook

(Sponsors are Beth & Joel Loomis; Jill Howard)

Born August 29, 2011

Baptized November 20, 2011

First Communion April 14, 2022

Garrett Lars Jensen

(Sponsors are Bryce & Teresa Smith; Mark & Jill Lomp)

Born April 18, 2010

Baptized June 27, 2010

First Communion March 31, 2024

Ethan Thomas Johnson (*Will be confirmed Nov. 2nd*)

(Sponsors are Anthony & Kacie Meyers)

Born May 15, 2011

Baptized June 26, 2011

First Communion April 14, 2022

Emmalyn Christine Kruse

Born April 26, 2011

Baptized March 17, 2013

First Communion April 14, 2022

London Gayle Roelfs

(Sponsors are Lenise Kollasch; Casey Roelfs)

Born August 6, 2010

Baptized September 19, 2010

First Communion April 14, 2022

Mae Belle Wilson

(Sponsors are Kevin & Tara Laabs; Kit & Miki Wetzler)

Born March 29, 2011

Baptized August 7, 2011

First Communion April 14, 2022

Taylor Marie Wuebker

(Sponsors are Leon Wuebker; Alynn Kruse)

Born June 15, 2011

Baptized November 5, 2011

First Communion April 14, 2022

A sponsor or another representative of the congregation presents those making affirmation.

I present _____, who desires to make public affirmation of their baptism.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters and brothers, who you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold 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

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?

Response: I renounce them.

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

Response: I renounce them.

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

Response: I renounce them.

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 in the Presence of the Assembly

Faith Readings – *Each one called up individually with parent and sponsors*

Individual blessings

Stir up in _____ 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.

Presiding minister to confirmands:

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?

Response: **I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

Presiding minister to congregation:

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

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

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.

***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.

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. 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.

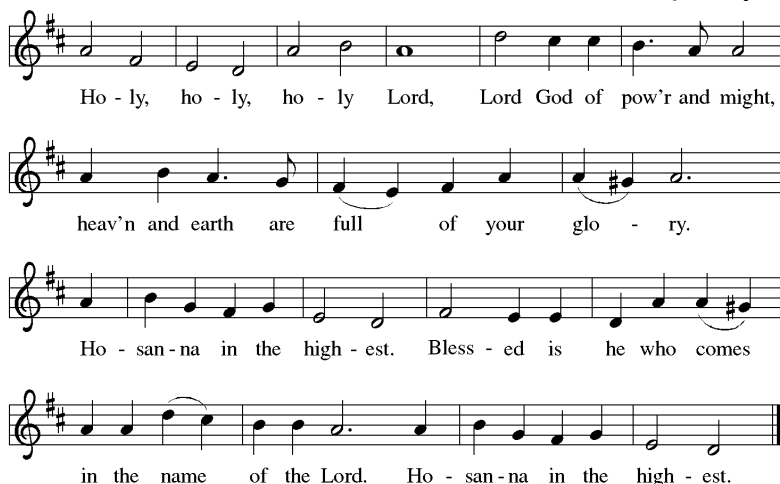
*PREFACE

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**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION

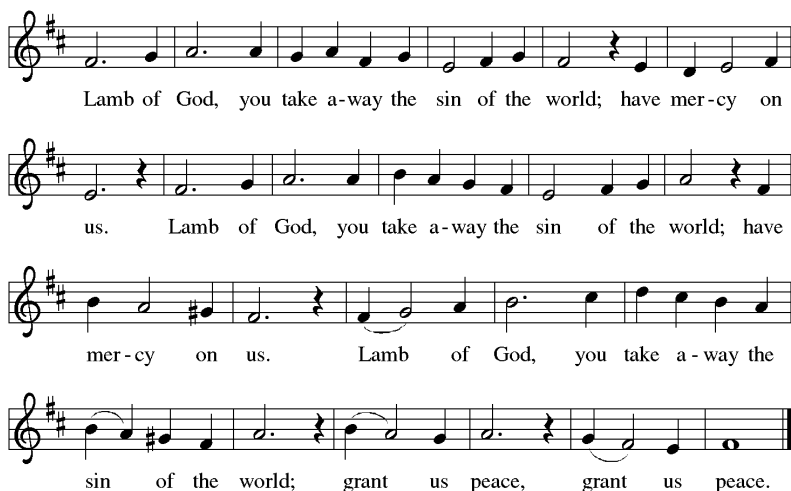
COMMUNION

Holy Communion Distribution for Today

1. Individual confirmands with family and sponsors commune at the rail individually first (stand if necessary)
2. Congregation will either commune in their seats with pre-packaged wafer and cups (dispose in trash after worship), or come forward via center aisle to commune from the aisle after the confirmands and their families. 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.
3. Wafer or gluten free wafer available - center ring is grape juice, outer rings are wine
4. If you are not communing, then come forward for a blessing from the pastor

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:

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

ELW 504

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*; Music: Martin Luther; Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress; Reprinted under Onelicense.net 1-708142 All rights reserved.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - duces him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

"God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven"

ELW 564

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, st. 1, alt.; William Mercer, 1811–1873, sts. 2, 4, alt.; Richard Whately, 1787–1863, st. 3, alt.; Music: Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958; Reprinted under OneLicense.net 1-708142 All rights reserved.

God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven



1 God, who made the earth and heav-en, dark-ness and light:
 2 And when morn a-gain shall call us to run life's way,
 3 Guard us wak-ing, guard us sleep-ing, and, when we die,
 4 Ho-ly Fa-ther, throned in heav-en, all-ho-ly Son,



you the day for work have giv-en, for rest the night.
 may we still, what-e'er be-fall us, your will o-bey.
 may we in your might-y keep-ing all peace-ful lie.
 Ho-ly Spir-it, free-ly giv-en, blest Three in One:



May your an-gel guards de-fend us, slum-ber sweet your mer-cy send us,
 From the pow'r of e-vil hide us, in the nar-row path-way guide us,
 When the last dread call shall wake us, then, O Lord, do not for-sake us,
 grant us grace, we now im-plore you, till we lay our crowns be-fore you



ho-ly dreams and hopes at-tend us all through the night.
 nev-er be your smile de-nied us all through the day.
 but to reign in glo-ry take us with you on high.
 and in wor-thier strains a-dore you while a-ges run.

"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

ELW 779

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5; Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851-1921, alt. public domain.

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

*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, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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

***BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***SENDING SONG**

“Thy Word”

W&P 144

AUTHORS Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith; CCLI SONG #14301; COPYRIGHTS 1984 Meadowgreen Music Company (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); Vinny Mae's Girl (Admin. by ClearBox Rights, LLC); Reprinted under CCLI #2551458



Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path.



1 When I feel a-fraid, think I've lost my way, still you're there right be -



side me, and noth-ing will I fear as long as you are near.



Please be near me to the end.



2 I will not for-get your love for me, and yet my heart for-ev-er is



wan-der-ing. Je-sus, be my guide and hold me to your side, and



I will love you to the end.

MUSIC WITH NELS – Kids dismissed

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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: McKenzie Bushaw

Acolytes: Samantha Ewing; Eden Richter

Technicians: Brent Emerson, Owen Williams

Altar Guild: Denise Elliott; Teri Klimpel

Communion Assistants: Matt & Erika Williams

This Week at Palestine

Sunday, October 26th, 2025 *Reformation Sunday*

8:30 a.m. Choir

9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion

Music with Nels

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Theology on Tap @ Flight

Tuesday, October 28th, 2025

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

7:00 p.m. Bible Study via Zoom

Wednesday, October 29th, 2025

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

1:00 p.m. Quilters

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

Thursday, October 30th, 2025

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

Sunday, November 2nd, 2025 *All Saints Sunday*

8:30 a.m. Choir

9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion

Music with Nels

Lectionary texts: Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18; Psalm 149; Ephesians 1:11-23; Luke 6:20-31

Thank you for your Gifts for Ministry:

October 19th, 2025

Attendance: 124

General: \$2,869.00

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.



THEOLOGY ON TAP

Question freely. Think deeply. Drink a little.

**Join us for Theology on Tap today,
Sunday, October 26th at Flight in
Huxley @ 5:30 p.m.**



Festival of All Saints Day

November 2nd

Have a candle ready to light at home if you are viewing via livestream

We will be remembering the faithful who have departed their life and have now taken their places among the members of the Church Triumphant in the past 24 months. During the Prayers of Intercession Pastor will read from a shepherd's book names that have been submitted. He has used this book on each All Saints' Sunday during his ministry.

If you have the name of a spiritual friend, mentor, family member or co-worker that you want to include in the prayers on All Saints Sunday, please email the name to palestinelutheran@gmail.com , or Pastor Eric at ericklimpel@gmail.com , or print the name in the book at church located in fellowship hall. We will include names in the bulletin of those members of Palestine who have departed their life and have now taken their places among the members of the Church Triumphant since last All Saints Sunday and also the newest saints in our church family who were baptized this past year.

Faith



By Kinsey Calvert

When I was a kid I used to dread coming to church. I didn't understand why it was so important. I just saw it as a chore. I always thought I knew who Christ was. But I truly just knew of him. Over the past 2 years I have learned so much more about God and it has grown my faith more than ever. The Bible verse I chose was **Psalm 46:5**. It says **"God is within her, she will not fail; God will help her at break of day."** Out of all the verses this one stuck out to me the most and has always been with me. I think it means the most to me because it refers to many things in my life. It can be shown in school or in sports. But I see it in everything I do. This verse has helped me strengthen my faith in God because it's a reminder that God didn't bring you this far just to leave you. He will always be there and bring you through the hard times and the battles you can't fight alone. If you know me then you know I'm very competitive. I have come to learn that even if I don't win all of the church games Jesus still loves me the same. Pastor always made sure we saw the meaning behind the games and why we played them which has taught me a lot more than I thought. For the past couple of years, I have struggled with confidence. Whether that was in the classroom, on the court, or even around my friends. I was always looking for the perfect answer or making the perfect play. I was always striving for perfection. But as I continued to walk my path with Christ I learned that what I was

striving for didn't even exist. The definition of perfection is something that is free from flaws or defects. As I walked with Christ he showed me that he didn't make anyone of us to be perfect. We were made in his beautiful image. He made us to be ourselves. Not the person in front of you, behind you, or anyone else but ourselves. I still think about how amazing it is that God looked down on the world and knew it needed one of each and every one of us. I know I still have a lot to learn but I know that God will be with me every step of the way and will never leave my side.



By Noelle Hartsook

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." This verse has helped me trust that even when life feels uncertain or overwhelming, there are good plans unfolding for me. It encourages me to lean into hope rather than fear, and to believe that my future is held securely in God's hands. This promise has shaped how I approach challenges, helping me stay grounded in faith and confident that I am being guided toward something good. It helps me to realize that even though I can't see it now, God does have a plan and purpose for me. So, I know that any worries or fears I might have about the future, I can give to God in prayer.

I have learned a lot during my confirmation journey, and I'm excited to start my new faith journey and next chapter of my life. Confirmation really helped me to grow closer to God and learn more about faith. I would really like to thank Brent, Nels, and Pastor Eric for teaching and supporting me throughout my time in

confirmation. I plan on continuing my faith by going to ROCK, coming to church, and my own studies at home. I am looking forward to seeing God's plan for my life unfold.



By Garrett Jensen

“For God gave us a spirit not to fear but of power and love and self-control.” – 2 Timothy 1:7

I like this verse because it takes me back to my years of riding bulls and bucking horses, the anxiety and fear of being hurt was always on my mind. Before every ride I'd take a minute to say a little prayer to look over and protect me. I put my anxiety aside and with a clear head and control, I was in charge. God is always with me; he was there as I rodeoed and now while I participate in life. While in confirmation, I truly opened up to the idea of God always being there. He's been by my side during my good times, as well as the hard times. He's my biggest supporter. We each face challenges, but with self-control, power and love, I can do anything, and God will be by my side.

I really didn't know what to expect with confirmation, I figured it was going to be another boring class my parents made me go to. In the end, I'm sad it's over. My favorite part of confirmation had to be the games, which was always tied back to God. I can say I've grown a lot since my first day of confirmation and I plan on teaching others what I've learned. Roger, I can't tell you how excited I was about getting my weekly ration of kringla, it was the best! Do you think I can get that recipe? To my confirmation leaders, thank you for being there each week and teaching me the word of the Lord.



By Emmalyn Kruse

My name is Emmalyn Kruse, and I am ready to confirm my faith in Jesus Christ. Over the past 2 years, my faith has become something that I can always turn to no matter what, and something I can lean on. I always believed in God, but when I was younger, I never paid attention, so I read or colored because I didn't understand what Pastor was saying. I thought of church more as a thing I was being dragged to. The first night I walked into confirmation, I didn't really want to be there, but as I started to learn more and understand things better, I started looking forward to Wednesday nights and learning more about Jesus and how I could grow closer to Him. The verse I picked is **Proverbs 3:5, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make straight your paths."** This is important to me because it reminds me to trust God's plan and stop trying to make my own. Trusting God's plan can be hard, but he knows things I don't, and his plan will always be better than anything I could think of. I think confirmation grew my faith a lot over the past two years, and I hope I can continue to grow closer to God.



By London Roelfs

Hi, my name is London Roelfs, and I want to share what I've learned about my faith through confirmation.

During this journey, I've discovered so much about the Bible, my relationship with Christ, and what it really means to be active in

my faith and my church. One of my favorite parts was playing games with my confirmation class. The games were entertaining, engaging, and helped make the lessons easier to understand.

When I first started confirmation, I honestly didn't know what to expect. I knew it had something to do with my baptism, but I didn't realize how much I would grow and learn about my faith.

Before confirmation, I didn't really know how to pray. Now I know that prayer can look different for everyone — it can happen in the morning, during the day, or at night. No matter when or how we pray, God is always there listening.

Something that really changed for me was how I see my relationship with God. I used to think I needed God just to get to Heaven, but now I understand that I need Him to get through life.

A verse that really stood out to me is **Second Corinthians, Chapter 5, Verse 7 — “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”** It reminds me that even when I can't see what's ahead, I can still trust God to guide me.

As I continue in my faith, I want to live by these promises:

- I will not live in worry.
- I will not walk in fear.
- I will not give in to anxious thoughts.
- I will trust in Him.



By Mae Wilson

I have two key verses that speak to me. First is **"I know the Lord is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me."** **Psalm 16:8.** This verse speaks to me because before confirmation,

I was not close to God at all. Coming to church felt more like an obligation rather than something I wanted to do, and I thought that he was only with me at church. As I went through confirmation, I realized that I felt closer to God because I understood him more. As I went through difficult times in middle school, I turned to God more and more, and now I always turn to Him when I am struggling, in need, or when I need to talk to someone.

My next verse is **"Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with timbrel and harp." Psalm 149:3.** I like this verse because dancing is when I feel closest to God. Before confirmation, I would often feel alone backstage at competitions, even if I was with people, and would get horrible nerves. Confirmation influenced me to try praying backstage before going on, and not only did it calm me down, but it also helped me feel not so alone because I knew God was with me, and I knew he would stay with me throughout my performance.

Never in my life have I felt closer to God than I do now. Through my struggles, dance, school, and everything in between, I know God is with me and I will always and now forever praise his name through song, dance, word, or prayer. I want to thank my confirmation leaders and my parents for guiding me on this journey.



By Taylor Wuebker

In **1 Corinthians 13:4**, the gospel states, **"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily**

angered, it keeps no record of wrongs." To me, this verse shows God's ways and what He wants us to learn about kindness and love. To me, this is what it means to be faithful.

During my time in Confirmation, I was reminded of this often when I learned not only about faith in words, but about faith in action. The more I read through the Gospels, the more I noticed that Jesus lived this love—not by staying in the Temple or synagogues, but by being out with the people, showing kindness, patience, and compassion in everyday life. He was present among them—teaching, healing, and living out the very love that Paul describes in Corinthians.

He healed the sick, like Bartimaeus in Mark 10. He fed thousands in Matthew 14. He taught lessons about how to live and love in the Sermon on the Mount. What stood out to me is that Jesus showed God's love through his actions. He did not seek love or praise from others; he simply showed kindness out of the goodness of his heart, which is the lesson I want to live by.

This made me realize that following Jesus isn't just about what I believe, but about how I live. Jesus said in John 13:34–35, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

For me, that's what confirmation means. Jesus loved by serving and helping others, and now it's my turn to do the same. For my life, I plan to live like Jesus—to serve and to love my community because it is the right thing to do. My faith isn't just about believing in Him—it's about living like Him. Confirmation reminds me that to worship Him is to follow Him. This is what my faith is about. This is what I plan to live by. This is my faith statement.



*Congratulations to
our confirmands!*

IT'S ALMOST KUMLA TIME!



Jello salads, desserts, and volunteering in the kitchen are all requested. *See the sign-up sheet in fellowship hall or watch the Wednesday email announcements to click on the sign-up link!*

GET READY FOR KUMLA!

Saturday, November 8th

5- 7 p.m.

\$14/adults \$7/kids

Carry-out available



Spirit, Open Our Hearts- Afternoon with Bishop Current

Join Bishop Current for an afternoon of fellowship, conversation, and worship on Sunday, November

9th from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm at St. John Lutheran Church, Des Moines. Bishop Current will share stories of the impact of mission support over the last year with words of gratitude. This gathering is for anyone interested in gathering with people from other area congregations and hearing more about the ministry we do together as the Southeastern Iowa Synod and beyond.



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.

Home, Sweet Home (based on John 8)

Whether you have lived in several places or very few, you probably have a method for transforming a space to live into a home. Maybe you put family photos on the walls, set out mementos, or spread a favorite quilt on the bed. These touches are important if we want to feel like we belong in a new space.

Jesus offered the gift of belonging to people who newly believed in him, but they had a hard time accepting it. He said if they would continue, or abide, in his word, they would be his disciples, know his truth, and be set free. They would receive the gift of belonging to his household forever.

To us the listeners' response is surprising, as if the new believers had shut their ears as soon as they heard Jesus say, "The truth will make you free." They didn't want to accept that there was anything they needed to be set free from. On a deeper level, they didn't want to believe that someone else would need to set them free. Jesus' words invite us to reflect on where our freedom comes from, and where we belong, as his disciples.

On Reformation Sunday, we celebrate how the Holy Spirit is constantly reforming the church, the community of Jesus' disciples. We give thanks for the gospel message that Jesus saves us from sin and death through his cross and resurrection. We don't have to earn our salvation; we can simply trust that Jesus is the one who makes it possible. That's how we receive genuine freedom—as a gift of God's grace. Thanks to Jesus, we have a permanent home. No matter how many times we move, we abide with Jesus forever. This festival day encourages us to keep listening to Jesus' word, growing in faith as his disciples, and giving thanks that with him, we are always at home.