



Reaching out in Christian love to all!

**THE PALESTINE PRESS
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

MARCH 2026



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Mission Statement:

“Palestine Lutheran Church exists to proclaim and live God’s Holy Word, to nurture and support our membership, and to enable us to live our faith in our daily lives. As we are nourished, we are called to reach out to our communities, our spheres of influence, and to the wider world through the church-at-large.”

Our Vision:

Palestine Lutheran Church will be a haven for all generations, a people worshipping and growing continually in relationship with Jesus, inspired by God’s Word; a living example of stewardship, a loving and caring fellowship that reaches out in Christ-centered faith and love to the world.



Pastor Eric will be doing limited visitation for members who would like to have one. Please contact Pastor Eric if you would like to have a visit. You do not have to wait for him to call.

Call 515-597-2620 or email ericklimpel@gmail.com

We would like to work out what is best and safest for the visit and distribution for each person.

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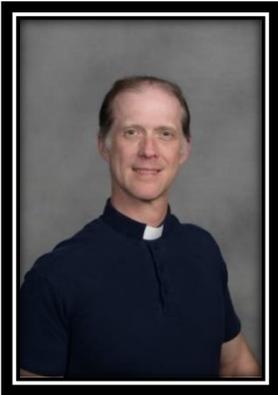


Palestine will accept your offering!

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 or scan the QR code.
4. **Text GIVE** to 515-207-6435.



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



Listening in Lent, Easter and Beyond

.....With Pastor Eric

*⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him, and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, "**This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.**" Matthew 3:16-17*

*While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "**This is my son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!**" ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." ⁸ And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. Matthew 17:5-8*

I grew up with what was referred to as a "red letter" Bible. Every word spoken by Jesus was in red ink while everyone else was in black ink. One day I came across a Bible in Sunday school class that had green lettering in it. Apparently when God speaks directly in the Bible then God gets green inked words. As you can imagine, I looked and observed that there are only a few green letters in the New Testament. In Matthew's gospel account, God speaks twice – at Jesus's baptism in chapter 3 and at the transfiguration event later in chapter seventeen. Both statements recognize Jesus as God's beloved Son with whom God is well pleased; however, in the chapter 17 account God continues with "Listen to Him!" in bold green lettering!

As we make our way through the wilderness of Lent, I find myself compelled to double down on this command to "listen to Jesus" – to what Jesus says, the ways that he says things, and when he says things. We have been listening in on Jesus conversations with Satan (The Devil),

as well as other key figures in Jesus’s ministry. What do you hear in these interactions? How do these question-and-answer sessions peak your curiosity and cause you to question for yourself how Jesus might be present and speaking in your life?

As I look at the news, I cannot believe how reactive and judgmental we are as a society. How do we reconcile our faith with what is going on in our time? I think that part of our response is found in the midst of our Lent reflection on Easter. Instead of seeking power and control in the name of being right “*might makes right, or the majority makes right*”, we might seek to love as Jesus did. To love means to give time to another, give the benefit of the doubt, give the option that we might not have the whole story, and to forgive each other as God forgives us. Asking questions and having conversations grows faith and produces faith with God’s Word and other people through the power of the Spirit. Curiosity causes us to suspend our judgements and prejudices as we lean into discover something that could open the doors to new life and yes, new understanding!

Here is a strategy that might help all of us apply our faith to our daily life even our political life 😊

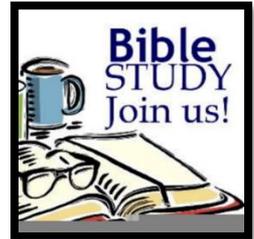
1. **Pray** – for forgiveness, for peace, for those impacted by violence
2. **Pay attention** to how we misuse power intentionally or not instead of simply loving first
3. Stay alert and informed; **listen intently** to more than one source
4. Ask good questions and **talk with** each other – seek to understand more then to be understood

Of course, these are only a few suggestions and contain the imperative to “Listen!” in the original “green lettering.” If God wants us to listen to Jesus, then we need to listen to and for Jesus wherever we are. ***Let us pray. Open our ears, O God, to listen for your Word and respond as we are able for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.***

GET INVOLVED

Men's Bible Study

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



ZOOM Bible Study

Tuesdays from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. “Living Generously”. (8 Sessions). When Mary anointed Jesus’ feet with perfume and wiped them with her hair, it was a remarkably generous and loving act – one that continues to inspire us today. In this eight-part series, Jonathan de Bernhardt Wood explores the simple yet powerful moment in which a friend and follower of Jesus displays the kind of astonishing generosity God Himself pours out on us. The wonder of the gospel is that this can be your story too as you discover the freedom of living generously. If you need help securing material, please contact ericklimpel@gmail.com. Create an account free at this link (RightNow Media): <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/join/palestinelutheran> Click on Palestine Quilt Square symbol.

R.O.C.K. Group

For high school students. The R.O.C.K. Group typically meets on the first Wednesday of every month from 6:30 – 8 p.m. at Palestine. The R.O.C.K. Group will also meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 6:30-8 p.m. for Gather@ (location to be announced: Palestine or Fjeldberg). See email updates from Nels for specific monthly activities.

CONFIRMATION

Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. (Lent worship @ 7 p.m.) @ Palestine Lutheran Church – 7th & 8th grades - Classes on the Small Catechism

with the goal of confirmation at the end of a two-year ministry of service, discussion and fun. Questions? Contact Pastor Eric Klimpel @ ericklimpel@gmail.com

Food Pantry Ministry

Help serve at the local food pantry in Huxley by signing up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b48acaa2ba3f85-food#/>. The pantry is currently going through some changes. If you have questions, contact Deb Moore (515-460-1037) and if she doesn't know the answer, she'll find out.

New Member Orientation Meetings

March 1, 2026 after worship in the south conference room as arranged by Pastor. Anyone who would like to inquire about Palestine Lutheran Church and find some insights into its history, people and ministry are welcome. For prospective members, new members and yes, even veteran members! All are welcome! Let the church office know if you are interested so that we can prepare materials (@ palestinelutheran@gmail.com)

Theology on Tap

Gathering for adults who want to fellowship, relax and solve the world's problems together while creating some potential new ones. We will take time to fellowship around God's Word and grow together as a community.

➡ **Join us for the next one in March 15th from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.** at Flight in Huxley, 931 N US HWY 69, Huxley, IA 50124 *(No reservations needed, just show up! 😊)*



**Join us at 6 p.m.
Wednesdays during Lent
for a light dinner.**

March 4 th	TBA	<i>Sponsored by R.O.C.K.</i>
March 11 th	Walking Tacos	<i>Sponsored by Church Council</i>
March 18 th	Lasagna	<i>Sponsored by Choir</i>
March 25 th	TBA	<i>Sponsored by Quilters</i>



Installation

COUNCIL INSTALLATION **February 1st, 2026**

Thanks to out-going council members *Greg Saveraid* and *Tim Wilson* for their dedication and service to Palestine!

NEW COUNCIL INSTALLATION:

Mike Brixius, Darin Madson, Scott Johnson, Brad Lewis, Mark Pote, Deidre Qual, Chris Richter, Jean Saveraid, Kari Sandquist (Treasurer), Julie Emerson (Financial Secretary); Christa Hartsook (Secretary); Kristin Shelton (Vice President); David Eisenmann (President)



We welcome our new brothers in Christ:
Guy and Griffin Longnecker

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

Born March 31, 2025
Baptized February 8, 2026
*Guy and Griffin are the sons of
Garrett and Ellen Longnecker*





Daily Faith Practices

Daily discipleship themes can be used for Bible study. They are available on the ELCA website www.elca.org
→Resources→ Downloadable Resources→ Bible studies

2nd Sunday of Lent

Focus: Faith Like Abraham

“For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith.” (Romans 5:13 NRSV)

Read Romans 4:1-5. 13-17

3rd Sunday of Lent

Focus: Reconciled to God

“For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.”

(Romans 5:10-11 NRSV). Read Romans 5:1-11

4th Sunday of Lent

Focus: Live as Children of Light

“For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light...” (Ephesians 5:8 NRSV)

Read Ephesians 5:8-14

5th Sunday of Lent

Focus: Set your mind on Christ

“To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.” (Romans 8:6 NRSV)

Read Romans 8:6-11

Palm Sunday

Focus: Humility in All Circumstances

“And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.” Philippians 2:7b-8 (NRSV). Read Philippians 2:5-11



Lent Special Offering this year will go towards Joppa: Helping Homeless People for Lent

Joppa is a volunteer-driven, interdenominational nonprofit based in Des Moines, Iowa, dedicated to helping homeless individuals survive, find permanent housing, and rebuild their lives. The organization has successfully helped over 800 people off the streets, with more than 80% remaining in stable housing.

Please write in your check memo “special lent offering”.

We are also collecting nonperishable food for our local food pantries. Fill up a grocery bag and bring it to church between until April 11th!



Suggested items:

- Chef Boyardee Beef Ravioli
- Dinty Moore Beef Stew
- Chicken Breast Chunk in a can
- Carrots (sliced and diced – canned)
- Baked Beans/Pork & Beans
- Manwich
- Helper meals
- Pears (canned and cups)

Bring in your filled grocery bags by April 11th!



March 2026

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

- 1 Kaedence DeVries
- Julianne Schaudt
- Jeannie Williams
- 2 DeAnne Jolly
- 4 Benjamin Ewing
- 5 Koe Hillebo
- 7 Mark Doty
- Andrew Larson
- Aiden Lewis
- 10 Brad Lewis
- 11 Lucas Hartsook
- 12 Natalie Kruse
- 13 Lola Hermanson
- Madeline Scheldahl
- 16 Samantha Ewing
- Reese Wuebker
- 17 Rebecca Snider
- 18 Ty Siepker
- 19 Hannah Saltzman
- Addy Siepker
- 20 Brittany Young
- 21 Patti Rowedder
- Presley Unkrich
- 22 Kevin Kopaska
- Chris Nelson (72nd)
- 23 Doreen Blackmer
- Mike Hughes (78th)
- 24 Nic Schonhorst
- 25 Jessica Green
- Carlee Nobiling
- 28 Erika Williams

- 29 Samuel Argueta
- Brent Emerson
- Helen Kepler (82nd)
- Rick Sheldhal
- Mae Wilson
- 30 Norma McBride (82nd)
- 31 Guy Longnecker
- Griffin Longnecker



Let's shower the following members with birthday cards:

March 29th Helen Kepler

March 30th Norma McBride

Please see mailed newsletter for addresses.



5th David Ewing & Monica Morse

25th Olivia & Sam Duffy

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



ALTAR GUILD: Julie Huxford; Jen Pote

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

March 1st: Matt & Erika Williams

March 15th: Matt & Erika Williams

USHERS: *needed*

OFFERING COUNTERS: *needed*

GREETERS*, **:

March 1st: Brad & Lesa Lewis; Leonard & Sue Larson

March 8th: Scott & Alyssa Johnson; Marlys Hartman

March 15th: Deidre Qual; Rich & Chris Nelson

March 22nd: Wade & Holly Twedt; Lora Young

March 29th: Jeff & Kim Van Pelt; Tim & Shannon Wilson

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

**All greeters for the month are asked to bring two dozen treats to share on the 2nd Sunday of the month.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
1 <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i> 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion <i>Music with Nels</i> New member orientation 10:45 a.m. First Communion Class 11:00 a.m. R.O.C.K. Mission trip meeting	2	3 10:00 a.m. Rock Creek Worship Ankeny (<i>Pastor</i>) 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study
8 <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i> <i>"Name Tag Sunday"</i> 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship <i>Music with Nels</i> <i>"Cookie Sunday"</i> 10:45 a.m. First Communion Class	9	10 10:00 a.m. Area Pastors' Study 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study
15 <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i> <i>No choir rehearsal</i> 9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion 5:00 p.m. 4H 5:30 p.m. Theology on Tap	16	17 10:00 a.m. Area Pastors' Study 1:00 p.m. Cedars Worship in Madrid 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study
22 <i>5th Sunday of Lent</i> 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Baptism	23	24 10:00 a.m. Area Pastors' Study (<i>Pastor</i>) 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study
29 <i>Palm Sunday</i> <i>No Choir rehearsal</i> 9:30 a.m. Worship <i>Music with Nels</i> 10:45 a.m. First Communion Class	30	31 10:00 a.m. Area Pastors' Study 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study

Lesa on vacation ▶

2026

APRIL

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

MARCH 2026

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study <i>No Quilting</i> 6:00 p.m. Light Dinner 6:30 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Mid-week Lenten service	5	6 2026 World Day of Prayer	7 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Council Retreat @ Huxley Library 5:00 p.m. R.O.C.K. Lock in until 8:30 a.m. Sunday 5:00 p.m. Fish Fry @ Palestine
11 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:30 p.m. Prayer Support Group 1:00 p.m. Quilters 6:00 p.m. Light Dinner 6:30 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Mid-week Lenten service	12	13	14
18 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Quilters 6:00 p.m. Light Dinner 7:00 p.m. Mid-week Lenten service <i>Newsletter deadline</i>	19 11:00 a.m. Ballard Ministerial Mtg (<i>Pastor</i>) 2:00 p.m. North Polk Ministerial Mtg (<i>Pastor</i>)	20	21
25 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Green Hills Devotions (<i>Pastor</i>) 1:00 p.m. Quilting 6:00 p.m. Light Dinner 6:30 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Mid-week Lenten service Lesa on vacation 	26 10:00 a.m. Lenten Renewal with the Bishop (<i>Pastor</i>) in Knoxville	27	28
1 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Quilters 7:00 p.m. Gethsemane Prayer Service 	2 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday; Holy First Communion	3 2:00 p.m. Passion Play movie 5-6:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service	4 Easter Vigil – <i>devotionals available</i>

Mark your calendar for Easter services April 5th: 7:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.



Palestine Church Council Minutes 2/1/2026

See mailed newsletter for council minutes.

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Remember in Prayer

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

Kristy Brownfield, Marvin Edwards, Jon Irwin, Terri Irwin, Betsy Johnson, Rose Locker, Gemma Lynch, Norma McBride, Debra Ness, Larry Pote, Jean Sandquist, Tim Shoemaker, Oriett Snider

Family and friends of: Linda Lewis, Sally Greve, Roger Larson, Dick Cast, Cheryl (Ness) Shranklen, Marge Sheldahl, Sandy Wirtz, Ken Larson, Alice Kahler, Harold Rittgers, Esther Orn, Dick Kepler, Dennis Green, Charles Sheldahl, Cynthia Peterson, Bethine Nelson, Dick Brown, Penny Brown



Spring Plants for Easter Worship

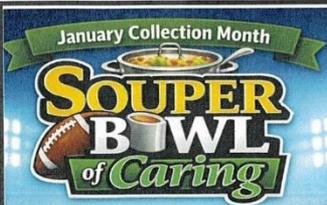
Order your spring plant for **\$20** for Easter Sunday Worship. Call Tracy Sheldahl at 515-450-1961. Please let her know (at the time you order) if you are placing the plant in memory of or in honor of someone. The deadline to order is **Sunday, March 20th**.

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



ROCK Valentine Raffle Winner: Jen Pote!
(sorry, no picture!)

R.O.C.K Thanks you for your donations and participation!



The K.I.C.K. Group collected **145 cans of soup** to go to the Huxley Food Pantry and **\$130.00** in donations! Thank you!

Help us tackle hunger—one can at a time!



Ballard Clothing Pantry

March is Palestine's month to staff the Clothing Pantry. There is 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/1rr8989x2djjv_nfZufdFDSR_YeN0N27m4_B3FU-jfZU/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.



Join us Saturday,
March 7th @ 5 p.m.

In memory of Spencer Pote

A sign up for sides and volunteer help is in fellowship hall.



PLEASE NOTE: Facebook Live has not been working for our livestreamed services.

Please go to our website at <http://www.plchuxley.com/> and navigate to our Livestream tab at the upper right corner. It should be the first video stream you see.

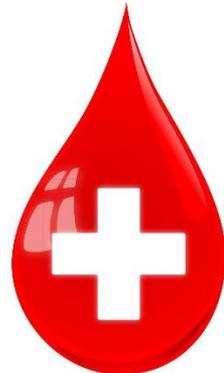


BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS February 10th @ Palestine

- 32 registered donors
- 30 eligible donors
- 34 units of blood collected
- **Up to 102 lives saved or sustained!!**

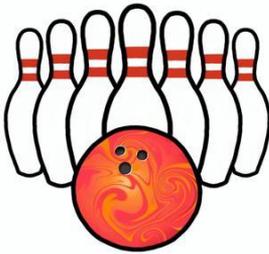


**THANKS TO Kim
Van Pelt for
organizing (and
donating!)**





The R.O.C.K. group had some fun bowling in Ames February 11th!





*Special Music
Treat from
Wartburg College Castle Singers!*



February 15th

22

**Our Sr. Choir and
Wartburg's came
together for a song!**

Lent



Sunday, March 1st -----*Second* Sunday of Lent @ 9:30 a.m.; Holy Communion

Wednesday, March 4th -----Light supper @ 6 p.m. & service @ 7 p.m.

Sunday, March 8th -----*Third* Sunday of Lent @ 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, March 11th -----Light supper @ 6 p.m. & service @ 7 p.m.

Sunday, March 15th -----*Fourth* Sunday of Lent @ 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, March 18th -----Light supper @ 6 p.m. & service @ 7 p.m.

Sunday, March 29th -----  *Palm Sunday* 9:30 a.m.

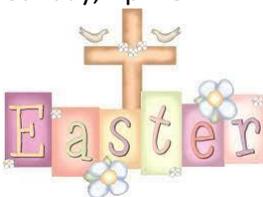
Wednesday, April 1st -----*Gethsemane Prayer Service* @ 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 2nd -----*Maundy Thursday* @ 7 p.m. w/ Holy Communion

Friday, April 3rd -----*Passion of the Christ* movie @ 2 p.m.
Stations of the Cross 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Good Friday worship service @ 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 4th -----*Easter Vigil – devotionals available*

Sunday, April 5th -----7 a.m. Sunrise Service w/ Holy Communion
Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Festival Service w/ Holy Communion



Palentine Lutheran Church
P. O. BOX 189
Huxley, IA 50124-8110
Address service requested