



*Wise Men  
Still Seek  
Him . . .*



*Reaching out in Christian love to all!*

**THE PALESTINE PRESS  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

**JANUARY 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](mailto:ericklimpel@gmail.com)

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

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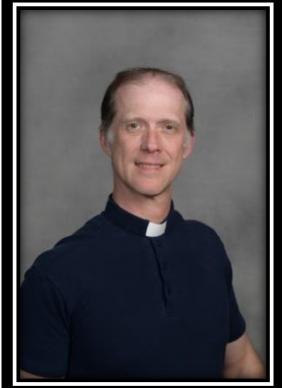
### Tithes & Offering

Palestine will accept your offering!

1. **Bring** to worship service with you and place in offering plates.
2. **Mail** check to:  
Palestine Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 189  
Huxley, IA 50124
3. **Give online through Easy Tithe.**  
Go to our website [www.plchuxley.com](http://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.*



## Getting Excited about Jesus in 2026

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### -----With Pastor Eric

Our Tuesday Zoom Bible Study group is working our way through the seasons of *The Chosen* (*a television adaptation of the life and ministry of Jesus*). In the season 1 finale, we encounter the woman at the well from John 4:1-42. Jesus reveals

himself to her as the promised Messiah and she excitedly leaves her water jars and runs home while telling everyone that she had met him. Our study of season one ended until January in which Jesus officially kicks off his public ministry. The last group discussion question was, "Has there ever been a time in your life where you were as excited about Jesus as the woman at the well was? How can we bring back some of that excitement?" What a great question to begin our new year of 2026! Some of us answered VBS or church camp as children got us excited for Jesus while others mentioned mission trips abroad or into different cities/areas. What do these answers have in common? Well, how about a child's faith and imagination to start with, and a sense of adventure with Jesus.

I like what Lori Beth Jones wrote in her book called "Jesus CEO". In this book she wrote:

"Perhaps Jesus loved to dance because he was born at a party. I believe any event that has a heavenly light show, people bearing gifts from distant places and a host of angels singing and giving directions is a dance of major proportion. It must have made an impact on him. One of his favorite miracles was to turn water into

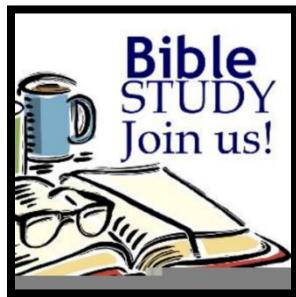
wine, not vinegar. As his fame and popularity grew, he was constantly invited to dinners at Nicodemus's or Peter's or rich young people's houses. The night before he was arrested, he gathered his staff (Lori Beth Jones calls Jesus' disciples his staff) together to sing songs and to dine. When crowds came, Jesus was adamant that no one leave with an empty stomach. He always managed to locate food for them. He turned one boy's lunch into food for thousands. He told stories of a king who arranged a banquet and then got angry and disappointed when nobody came. He spoke of a father throwing a lavish party to celebrate a wayward son's return. When Jesus returned from the dead, he prepared a fish barbecue on the shore, sort of a team picnic. He came from a very happy place, and he knew he was returning to a very happy place. When he said, 'Whenever two or more are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them,' perhaps he saw a dance coming on. Indeed, his invitations read 'I go to prepare a place [setting] for you'. I think he is telling us to lighten up. 'Why do you worry so?' he would ask. 'Don't you see the flowers; how beautiful they are? Do you think God is going to let you wear less than these?'"

I think our own Mason Kam put it best when Nels asked him during a children's message, "What do you do when you are standing in line?" The answer he was looking for was "waiting." But Mason proclaimed boldly, "DANCE!" Perhaps this new year, we might take a more child-like approach to our faith and get excited just because we are loved and we can! Amen! Happy New Year!

# GET INVOLVED

## **Men's Bible Study**

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



## **ZOOM Bible Study**

**Tuesdays from 7:00pm – 8:00pm –**

The Chosen (Season 1): The Bible Study. (8 Sessions). This

interactive study guide for the 8-week TV series The Chosen allows you to delve more deeply into each episode as you explore the life of Jesus. You'll come to realize that you are called, cherished, and carried; have been made new and established; are now his witness; and more. If you need help securing material, please contact [ericklimpel@gmail.com](mailto:ericklimpel@gmail.com)

## **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 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month from 6:30-8 p.m. for Gather@ (location to be announced Palestine or Fjeldberg).

## **CONFIRMATION**

Wednesday, 6:30pm – 8pm @ Palestine Lutheran Church – 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:ericklimpel@gmail.com)

## **Food Pantry Ministry**

Help serve at the local food pantry in Huxley with our Fjeldberg friends. Volunteer at the pantry! Contact Merle Rasmussen ([vikinggames@huxcomm.net](mailto:vikinggames@huxcomm.net)).

## **New Member Orientation Meetings**

**January 11<sup>th</sup>** after worship in the south conference room. Anyone who would like to inquire about Palestine Lutheran Church and find some insights into its history, people and ministry are welcome. For prospective members, new members and yes, even veteran members! All are welcome! Let the church office know if you are interested so that we can prepare materials (@ [palestinelutheran@gmail.com](mailto: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 January 25<sup>th</sup> 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! ☺*)

## **Grief Share Support Group**

Thursdays, January 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> 6:30p.m. -8:00 p.m. –  
location: Huxley Library.

GriefShare is a grief recovery support group where you can find help and healing for the hurt of losing a loved one.  
Register and questions email [ericklimpel@gmail.com](mailto:ericklimpel@gmail.com).



# Daily Faith Practices

Daily discipleship themes can be used for Bible study. They are available on the ELCA website [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)  
→Resources→ Downloadable Resources→ Bible studies

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

**Focus:** *Christmas Blessings*

**“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love.” Ephesians 1:3 (NRSV)**

Read Ephesians 1:3-14

## **Epiphany of our Lord**

**Focus:** *The Mystery of Faith*

**“...the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Jesus Christ through the gospel.” Ephesians 3:6 (NRSV)**

Read Ephesians 3:1-12

## **2nd Sunday of Epiphany**

**Focus:** *To the Church of God*

**“To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours...” (1 Corinthians 1:2-3 NRSV)**

Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany**

**Focus:** *A divided Christ?*

**“What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” Has Christ been divided?” (1 Corinthians 1:12 NRSV)**

Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

# ★ Christmas Extravaganza!

Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>



*Thanks to everyone who participated in this annual R.O.C.K. event! We raised over \$850!*



*Thank you to Julie Huxford for donating a Julie original winter planter for us to raffle off to help raise funds. We raised over \$400! Helen Kepler is the recipient of the beautiful planter.*

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 12-14-25**  
***“The Christmas Checklist”***



***Thank you to everyone who supported our KICK group for our presentation of “The Christmas Checklist”. We also want to thank the confirmation kids and their parents for providing the meal after the program!***



## January 2026

- 1 Haylie Clark  
Reagan Doty
- 3 Ryan Engles
- 4 Lori Schonhorst
- 5 Tracy Sheldahl
- 6 Sarah Hartman
- 7 Henry Rumbaugh (81<sup>st</sup>)
- 9 Angie Hartman  
Kent Klingbeil
- 11 Tracy Rhoads
- 13 Missy Larson
- 14 Escher Kopaska  
Mollie Sheldahl
- 18 Bruce Hartman
- 19 Eden Richter
- 20 Casey Huxford
- 22 Cynthia Johnson (80<sup>th</sup>)
- 25 David Anderson (72<sup>nd</sup>)  
Scott Bushaw  
Colton Larson

27 Melissa Kopaska

30 Lesa Lewis  
Judy McKinney (88<sup>th</sup>)



*Let's shower the following members  
with birthday cards:*

**Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>** Henry Rumbaugh

**Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>** Cynthia Johnson

**Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>** Judy McKinney

*See mailed newsletter for addresses.*



2 Pastor Eric & Teri Klimpel

*If there is an error or omission in  
birthdays or anniversaries,  
please let Lesa know at  
[palestinelutheran@gmail.com](mailto:palestinelutheran@gmail.com)*

# January

**ALTAR GUILD:** Teri Klimpel;  
Denise Elliott

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:**

**Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>:** Matt & Erika Williams  
**Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>:** Roger & Deb Moore

**OFFERING COUNTERS:** Matt & Erika Williams

**Greeters\*, \*\***

**Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>:** If you are here and can greet, please do  
**Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>:** Mark & Robin Doty; Laura Kepler  
**Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>:** Quinn & Norma McBride; Mark & Jen Pote  
**Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>:** Dax & Haylie Clark; Darin & Katie Madson

\*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 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month.

## FEBRUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
<b>28</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas No choir 9:30 a.m. Worship; Lessons and Carols No children's church No music with Nels	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 10:00 a.m. Area Pastor's Study 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study
<b>4</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas 8:00 a.m. Council Mtg No choir 9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion <i>Annual reports due</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Epiphany of our Lord 10 a.m. Rock Creek Worship Ankeny (Pastor) 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study
<b>11</b> Epiphany of our Lord <i>Epiphany Service</i> 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship <i>Music with Nels</i> New member orientation	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10 a.m. Area Pastor's Study 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study
<b>18</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion <i>Music with Nels</i> <b>Annual Meeting</b> Chili Cook-Off 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. 4H	<b>19</b> <i>Martin Luther King Birthday</i>	<b>20</b> 10 a.m. Cedar's Worship in Madrid (Pastor) 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study
<b>25</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship Music with Nels 5:30 p.m. Theology on Tap	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10 a.m. Area Pastor's Study 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>31</b> <i>New Year's Eve</i>	<b>1</b> <i>Happy New Year!</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>7</b> 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. Confirmation? 6:30 p.m. R.O.C.K. @ Palestine	<b>8</b> 6:30 p.m. GriefShare @ Huxley Library	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>14</b> 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:30 p.m. Prayer Support Group 1:00 p.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. Confirmation <i>Feb. Newsletter deadline</i>	<b>15</b> 11:00 a.m. Ballard Ministerial Assoc. Mtg 6:30 p.m. GriefShare @ Huxley Library	<b>16</b> 7:00 p.m. R.O.C.K. worship @ games lock-in at Palestine	<b>17</b> 9:00 a.m.
<b>21</b> 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Quilters 2:00 p.m. North Polk Ministerial Mtg 6:30 p.m. Confirmation 6:30 p.m. R.O.C.K. @ Fjeldberg	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>28</b> 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Green Hills Devotions ( <i>Pastor</i> ) 1:00 p.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Riverside Daddy/Daughter Dance



# COUNCIL MINUTES

*These minutes have not yet been approved.*  
**See mailed newsletter for council minutes.**

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## Remember in Prayer

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

Dick Brown, Penny Brown, Kristy Brownfield, Gloria Dovre, Marlys Hartman, Jon Irwin, Terri Irwin, Betsy Johnson, Rose Locker, Gemma Lynch, Karen Myers, Chris Nelson, Debra Ness, Cindy Peterson, Larry Pote, Henry Rumbaugh, Jean Sandquist, Tim Shoemaker, Marvin Sorensen, Oriett Snider

*Family and Friends of:* Charlize Flick, Lee Briggs, Linda Lewis, Roger Larson, Sally Greve, Krisha Barrett, 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



## Weather Policy Reminder

Severe Weather Policy: When school is canceled because of the weather, all church functions will be canceled.

If weather hits when school is not in session, a message regarding cancellations will be on the church website ([www.plchuxley.com](http://www.plchuxley.com)) and the church facebook page (Palestine Lutheran Church). **Sunday morning worship service cancellation will be made no later than 8:30 a.m.**

## ROCK & CONFIRMATION CAROLING Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>!





# Christmas Tea Luncheon

**Dec. 21st**

**Dec. 21st**



**Thanks to our  
Wonderful  
Kitchen Staff**



# ANNUAL MEETING



The annual meeting is scheduled for **January 18, 2026.**

Deadline for submitting annual reports is **January 4, 2026.**

Please email to the church office in word format:

[palestinelutheran@gmail.com](mailto:palestinelutheran@gmail.com)

We will attempt to livestream this meeting so all can be involved.



January Collection Month

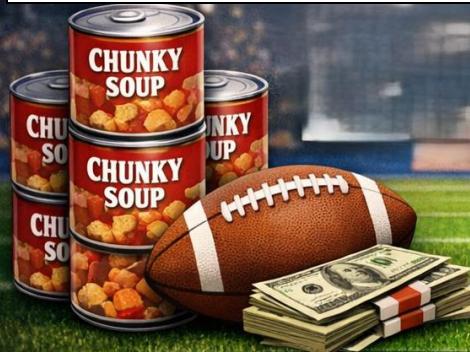
# Souper Bowl of Caring

January is our “Souper Bowl of Caring” month!

We are collecting **cans of chunky-style soup** and **monetary donations** to support our local Food Pantry.

 **Drop-off Location:** Fellowship Hall

 **Collection runs through Sunday, February 8**



**Help us tackle hunger—one can at a time!**





3001 Riverside Rd.

Story City, IA 50248

## DADDY DAUGHTER *Dine & Dance*

Saturday, January 31 | 3:30-5:30pm  
*at the Riverside Dining Hall*



We welcome daughters of all ages, as well as grandpas, uncles, or other close friends who may represent a special influence in a daughter's life.

**COST:** \$35/adult and \$5/child

**\*\*Registration tip** = When you log in to your family profile, begin with the adult and you will add your child attendees from that registration.

Doors will open for check-in 15 minutes before the event. Go to this link to register:

<https://cwngui.campwise.com/Apps/OnlineReg/Pages/Login.html>

## Looking Ahead to Summer

2026



TO KNOW HIS NAME

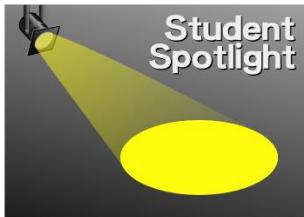
PSALM 135:13

**2026 Theme:** TO KNOW HIS NAME! This theme is based on Psalm 135:13 which says, **“Your name, O LORD, endures forever, Your renown, O LORD, through all generations.”** We hope you choose to join us this summer as we dive deeper into this theme!

**2026 REGISTRATION IS OPEN!** Summer camp [registration is OPEN!](#) Register by February 15 & receive early bird pricing.

You can find all of our [2026 summer offerings and dates](#) on our website at <https://riversidelbc.org/>

**SUMMER STAFF:** If you or someone you know would like to work at Riverside, please check out our 2026 Summer Staff video below, [learn more about our summer staff needs & submit your application.](#)



## Student Spotlight

### COLLEGE/MILITARY UPDATES:

*This month we are featuring:*

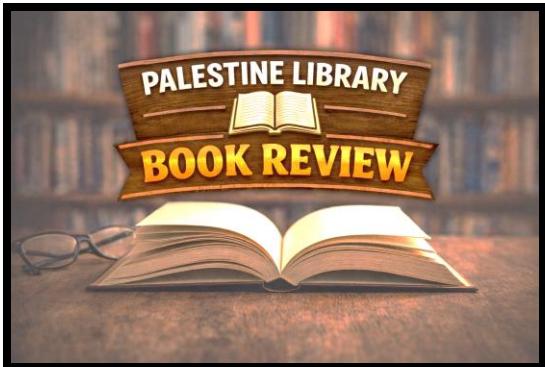
### KOLE SWAN

Kole is in his 2nd year of an apprenticeship with Kurrent Electric, Inc. It is a 4-yr program to become a licensed electrician/j journeyman. He takes online classes and learns through on-the-job training. He works 40-50 hour-work weeks.

When Kole isn't working, he enjoys duck and deer hunting, watching football and bible study group with his friends.



*Special Thanks to  
Julie Huxford  
for the beautiful floral touches  
she adds to our church every  
holiday!*



*Resilient: Restoring Your Weary Soul in These Turbulent Times*

*“New York Times bestselling author John Eldredge gives readers drained from the madness of modern life the*

*tools they need to follow Jesus’ path of supernatural resilience so they can recover their joy, strengthen their hearts, and thrive through the storm.”*

A few months ago, the church library added John Eldredge’s book *Resilient* to its collection. Scott and I read through this book together, and we found it to be relatable and insightful. It’s easy to get wrapped up in the daily headlines of chaos and bad news, to focus on the doom and gloom in the world. With a combination of scripture-based wisdom and engaging stories from real life experiences, *Resilient* provides simple tools and prayers to bring your focus back to Jesus and be restored in him.

There is also a free app that can be downloaded to your phone – Pause: Prayer and Meditation. Within the app, there is a program called “30 Days to Resilient” that partners with the book. Each day includes an 8-10 minute morning and evening session of guided meditation and contemplative prayer that will help you let go of the worries of the world and soak up the presence of God.

If your New Year resolution includes a desire to deepen your connection with God, to feel as though you are thriving rather than just getting by, I highly recommend reading this book and doing the 30-day program on the app!

*McKenzie Bushaw*  
Palestine Library Committee Member

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