



Palestine
Lutheran Church

*Reaching out in
Christian love to all!*

**THE PALESTINE PRESS
MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER**

AUGUST 2025

Celebrating 170 years



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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 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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page(s)

Pastoral Care	2
Tithes & Offering	3
Pastor's Monthly Report	4-5
Pastor Sabbatical Information	5
Get Involved	6-7
Daily Faith Practices	8
Confirmation Summer Volunteering	9
Birthdays.....	10
Anniversaries & Birthday Thank You	11
Monthly Calendar	12-13
Council Minutes & Get Together Pics.....	14
Prayer List for June & July, 2025.....	15
Confirmation Parent Meeting	15
Vacation Bible School Pics	16-17
Food at First Volunteering Pic	18
College/Military Update	18
Altar Guild & Communion Assistants Wanted	19
Children's Church Teachers Wanted	19
Riverside Bible Camp 5K & Quilt Auction	20
Prairie Fest Palestine Involvement	21
LSI August Newsletter Article	22-23

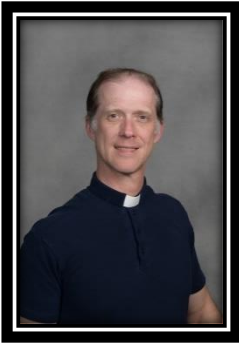


Palestine will accept your offering!

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.



Contemplating the Importance of Purpose ----- With Pastor Eric

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19

He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27

A study was conducted by a major university that examined the importance of purpose for human growth. They set up two scenarios which involved two backpacks. One backpack contained important scientific equipment to help determine weather patterns and the other backpack contained the same weight in unknown items. Both backpackers made their way up a steep mountain face. The backpacker with the scientific equipment made it up the mountain faster and determined that the rock face was not as steep as the second backpacker determined. Likewise, an experiment involved two swimmers who were to swim underwater as far as they could. The experimenters told one swimmer to touch the wall on the opposite side while they told the other swimmer to just swim as far as possible. The swimmer who strove for the wall on the other side of the pool swam farther and held their breath longer.

It might not surprise you to know that purpose builds resiliency, resourcefulness, and growth throughout life. How do you confront poverty, racism, and societal barriers? Purpose. How do you find meaning and foster community? Purpose. Jesus understood his purpose on this earth to bring the Kingdom of God through his life, death and resurrection. The disciples understood their purpose to go and make disciples everywhere, baptize them, and teach them to obey everything Jesus commanded them. With a clear purpose, these everyday fishermen, tax collectors and day laborers became spiritual

giants of faith in a world of persecution with little personal education or resources. Purpose is what God gave them, and the Holy Spirit renewed in them when times got tough, real tough.

Jesus said that the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Many times, we think about people ready to receive the good news of God's Kingdom, or salvation in Christ Jesus, but it also refers to a purpose for their life, and with it comes resources and a fullness of joy that helps humans grow. We think of purpose as a job, career, or relational network of family and friends. The purpose that Jesus gives (calling) applies to whatever job, career, or network that you may already live in. Which means that joy and fullness is always available in whatever job or circumstance you find yourself in.

What if we took duty, obligation and responsibility and turned it into joyful opportunities to serve our neighbor and see "the sacred (holy)" in them. Purpose gives direction, provides a guide for "yes" and "no" and refines meaning for my, your, and our life as humans with limited time on this planet. If you're looking for purpose, guess what? God has already provided you with the single greatest one for growth and flourishing.

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, who provides every good and perfect gift for life, thank you for the gift of purpose through Jesus Christ. Renew and refine your purpose (your call) in us as we begin each new day with your Spirit's leading and support, so that we might share your love with all people, for the sake of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.



Pastor Klimpel will be on sabbatical
for four weeks beginning July 9th.
Returning August 9th.

Pastoral coverage contacts:

July 21st – August 6th, please contact Kathleen Lotz with Memorial Lutheran (Nevada) 515-382-6509 or cell 480-261-0489.

GET INVOLVED

Men's Bible Study

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

ZOOM Bible Study

T.N.T (Tuesday Night Together)

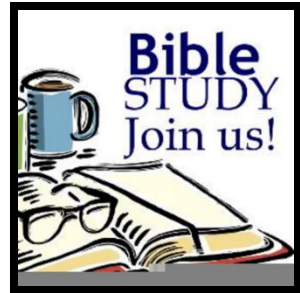
Bible Study – Tuesdays from 7:00pm

– 8:00pm – Power and Purpose: The

Book of Revelation for Today by Russell C. Lackey. (6

Sessions) The book of Revelation is confusing to read. Images of beasts, trumpets, plagues, and even dragons fill its pages. In his book, Power and Purpose, Russ Lackey guides readers on an adventure through the harrowing pages of Revelation in a clear and accessible way. Along the journey, issues such as economic and political injustice, ecology, evangelism, and synthesizing faith with everyday life are raised with the hope of Christ woven throughout. The main question of the book is not how does a person escape this world, rather, who is the Lord of this world? Christians who pick up Revelation with this question in mind do not try to escape society, rather, they work to reform it. Doing this they discover that true power and purpose comes from Christ, the Lamb who was slain. This is a must read for anyone desiring to better understand the book of Revelation.

If you need help securing material, please contact
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. during the school year. Watch for emails from Nels Dovre for start dates.

New Member Orientation Meetings


August 17th 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)

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)

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 August 24th, 2024 from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.** at Fenceline Beer Lab in Huxley, 107 S Main Ave, Huxley, IA 50124 *(No reservations needed, just show up! 😊)*



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

8th Sunday of Pentecost

Focus: *How do you guard against greed?*

“And [Jesus] said to them, ‘Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.’” Luke 12:15 (NRSV). Read Luke 12: 13-21

9th Sunday of Pentecost

Focus: *Are you prepared for Christ?*

“You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.” Luke 12:40 (NRSV). Read Luke 12:32-40

10th Sunday of Pentecost

Focus: *How has your choice to follow Jesus caused friction in your life?*

“You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?” Luke 12:56 (NRSV). Read Luke 12:49-56

11th Sunday of Pentecost

Focus: *How do we share our joy in being freed by Jesus Christ?*

“When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, ‘Woman, you are set free from your ailment.’ When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God.” Luke 13:12-13 (NRSV). Read Luke 13:10-17

12th Sunday of Pentecost

Focus: *How do you welcome and include the less fortunate?*

“For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” Luke 14:11 (NRSV). Read Luke 14:1, 7-14

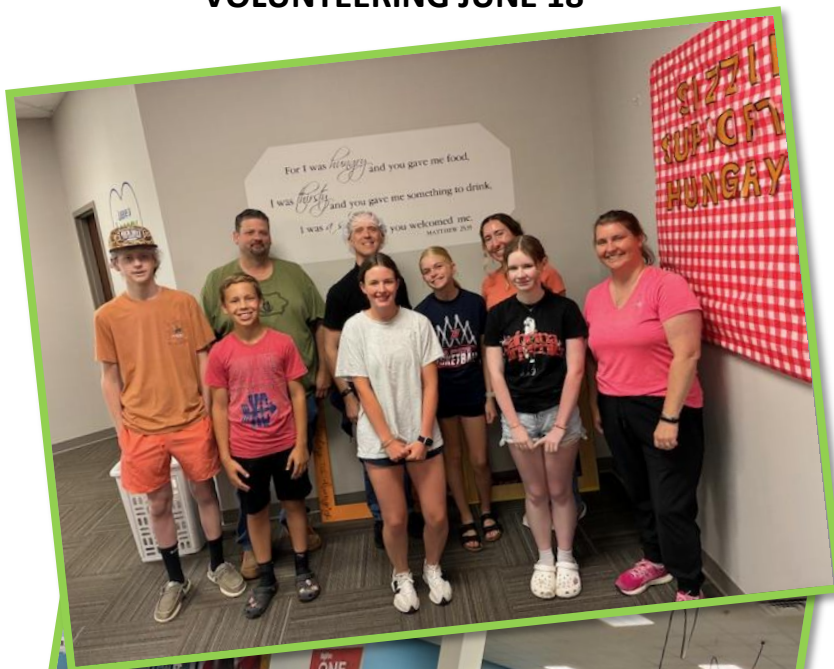


Meals from
the Heartland

Empowering people to
save starving children

CONFIRMATION

VOLUNTEERING JUNE 18TH





AUGUST 2025

- 5 Tony Ness
Kason Swan
- 6 London Roelfs
- 7 Vallery Eisenmann
Laura Kepler
- 8 Arlyce Engles
- 12 Alyssa Johnson
Drake Klingbeil
- 16 Garry Wirtz (84th)
- 17 Tyler Roelfs
- 18 Chris Richter
- 19 Denise Elliott (74th)
Sarah Jensen
Allan Kopaska
Megan Rowedder
- 21 Dominic Hansen
- 22 Heather Swan
- 24 Dennis Wright (77th)
- 26 Brinley Dykstra
Janice Rumbaugh (81st)
- 27 Leonard Larson (75th)
- 28 Karina Kelso
Chloe Shelton
- 29 Noelle Hartsook
Charles Sheldahl (82nd)



Let's shower Garry, Jan,
and Charles with cards for
their birthdays!

Aug. 16th
Gary Wirtz

Aug. 26th
Jan Rumbaugh

Aug. 29th
Charles Sheldahl

*See mailed newsletter for
addresses.*

If you notice an error or
omission in the birthdays or
anniversaries, please email the
office at
palestinelutheran@gmail.com



HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY

- 2 Russ & Mindy DeVries
- 6 Kevin & Jeannie Williams
- 13 Jim & Nina Gotta
- 14 David & Vallery Eisenmann (15th)
Adam & Molly Wuebker (15th)
- 15 Tim & Shannon Wilson
- 16 Bob & Oriett Snider
- 18 Justin & Jodie Sample
- 21 Allan & Deb Kopaska
- 22 Penn & Laurie Hill
- 23 Kyle & DeAnne Jolly
- 26 Chris & Amanda Richter
- 27 Brad & Lesa Lewis
- 29 Andrew & Cally Larson
Charles & Evy Sheldahl

THANK YOU

Since the June & July
News Letter were combined,
this is my first time to
say Thank You for
Prayers, Greetings &
Well Wishes for my 103 Birthday
My Church Family has
been a Big part of my Life.
To God be the Glory!
With Appreciation
Love & Prayers

Leona Larson





ALTAR GUILD: Helen Kepler & Melanie Fasuch

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

August 3rd: Laura Kepler & Doreen Blackmer

August 17th: needed

OFFERING COUNTERS: Holly Twedt

USHERS: *needed*

GREETERS*, **::

August 3rd: Cynthia Johnson;

Rich & Chris Nelson

August 10th: Dennis & Donna Millang; Tim & Julie Huxford

August 17th: Bill & Sandy Harleen; Jason & Melinda Kam

August 24th: *no service @ Palestine*

August 31st: Scott & Alyssa Johnson; Bruce & Angie Hartman

*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.

SEPTEMBER 2025

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	29	30				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
3 8 th Sunday of Pentecost 8:00 a.m. Council Mtg 9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion 1:30 p.m. Volunteer @ Gardening for Good <i>Pastor on sabbatical</i>	4	5 7:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study
10 9 th Sunday of Pentecost 9:30 a.m. Worship <i>Cookie Sunday</i> 1:30 p.m. Volunteer @ Gardening for Good	11	12 10:00 a.m. Area Pastor's Study 7:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study
17 10 th Sunday of Pentecost 9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion New Member Orientation 1:30 p.m. Volunteer @ Gardening for Good	18	19 10:00 a.m. Area Pastor's Study 7:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study
24 11 th Sunday of Pentecost NO WORSHIP @ PALESTINE 9:00 a.m. Prairie Fest Community worship @ Railroad Park (<i>rain venue Nord Kalsem</i>) 1:30 p.m. Volunteer @ Gardening for Good 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Theology on Tap @ Fenceline	25	26 10:00 a.m. Area Pastor's Study 7:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study
31 12 th Sunday of Pentecost 9:30 a.m. Worship 1:30 p.m. Volunteer @ Gardening for Good	Sept. 1 	2 10:00 a.m. Rock Creek Ankeny (<i>Pastor</i>) 7:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study

AUGUST 2025

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
6 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study <i>Pastor on sabbatical</i>	7	1/8	2/9 Aug. 2 nd : 8:30 a.m. 5K Walk/Run @ Riverside See newsletter page 20 for Riverside day details 11:00 a.m. Live auction begins @ Riverside
13 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study	14	15	16
20 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:30 p.m. Prayer Support Group 2:00 p.m. North Polk Ministerial Mtg. (<i>Pastor</i>)	21 11:00 a.m. Ballard Ministerial Assoc. Mtg (<i>Pastor</i>)	22	23 Prairie Fest Parade 5:30 – 8 p.m. Prairie Fest Pie & Ice Cream Social
27 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Green Hills Worship (<i>Pastor</i>) 6:30 p.m. Parent Confirmation meeting in conference room	28	29	30
3 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study	4	5	6

COUNCIL MINUTES

There was a meeting in June and the minutes were in the weekly email June 11th.

There was no meeting in July, just a council get-together July 6th.



Thanks to Tom and Kari Sandquist for hosting!



Remember in Prayer

The following were included in the Prayers of the Church during June & July:

Kristy Brownfield, Marvin Edwards, Sam Engler, Josh Ewing, Jon Irwin, Betsy Johnson, Helen Kepler, Gemma Lynch, Deb Ness, Judy McKinney, Cindy Peterson, Larry Pote, Havanna Roelfs, Jean Sandquist, Tim Shoemaker, Oriett Snider, Dobbin Wilson

Family & friends of: Dena Bloodsworth, Charles Bowers, Sarah Piper, Helen Miller, Jacob Leedom, Dan Bushaw, Elaine Paradise, Charlize Flick, Lee Briggs, Thomas Noll, Linda Lewis, Roger Larson, Sally Greve, Krisha Barrett, Dick Cast, Cheryl (Ness) Shranklen, Marge Sheldahl, Sandy Wirtz, Shirley Pierce, Ken Larson, Alice Kahler, Harold Rittgers, Ted Huxford, Esther Orn



Palestine Confirmation

Parent Meeting

**Wednesday, August 27th at 6:30 p.m.
in the conference room.**

For parents of incoming 7th and 8th grade confirmation students to discuss class, curriculum, expectations and events for the coming academic year. 9th grade parents are not included in this meeting.

Tentative date for confirmation classes to begin is Wednesday, September 10th.



Vacation Bible School Week

June 22-26

Thank you to everyone who contributed their time, talents, donations, and/or participating children!







VOLUNTERING July 20th

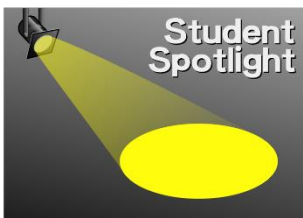


Not pictured, but also helped: Roger and Deb Moore

They need more summer help!

Visit foodatfirst.com for more volunteer information.

COLLEGE/MILITARY UPDATES:



This month we are featuring:

Grant Twedt




Grant is currently pursuing a degree in Ag Business at DMACC in Ankeny. He plans to graduate Spring 2026.


Grant stays busy with farming and working a variety of jobs throughout the year.



JOIN US ON ALTAR GUILD OR AS A COMMUNION ASSISTANT!!

Communion Helpers Needed—Twice a Month! Would you be willing to lend a hand in preparing and setting up Communion? We're looking for a few caring volunteers to assist two times a month. This task is simple, doesn't require a large time commitment, and makes a meaningful impact.

 **Help Serve Communion—Twice a Month!** We're looking for volunteers to help set up Communion just *two times a month*. It's easy, doesn't take much time, and makes a beautiful impact.

 Interested? Reach out to **Jen Pote** and join us in this simple but meaningful act of service. 515-229-5481 Email: majekaspka@hotmail.com

 *Your help matters—and we'd love to have you!*



Children's
Church

TEACHERS WANTED!

The Christian Ed Committee is looking for a few additional Sunday School teachers.

Email Kari Sadnquist at karisandquist@gmail.com if interested by August 10th, please!

Riverside 5K & Quilt Day - AUGUST 2, 2025

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Saturday, August 2nd:

7:30 – 8:15 a.m. 5K Walk/Run Registration and check-in

8:30 a.m. – 5K Walk/Run

8:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. Live viewing of all quilts in the Chapel

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Pool open for 5K participants

10:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship

11:00 a.m. LIVE auction begins in the Chapel

12:00 -2:00 p.m. Lunch served in the dining hall (free-will offering)

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Pool open for families who LOVE Riverside!

1:00 p.m. Online Auction begins to close and live watch party in the Chapel!



Many quilts are going into the auction right here
from Palestine quilt makers!



Prairie Fest 2025

Please make plans to join us for
**Pie, Brownie & Ice Cream Social on Saturday,
August 23rd from 5:30 – 8:00 pm!**

- Baked goods can be store bought or made from scratch!
- Drop off your donation at the church before 4pm on Saturday, August 23 or bring to the tent at Prairie Fest after 5pm.



- There is a signup sheet in Fellowship Hall for donations and servers or a link on the weekly announcements.
- Free-will donations from this event support church activities and outreach.
- This is one of the most popular ways Palestine reaches out to the community and your support is appreciated!

Join us Sunday, August 24th at 9 a.m. for a community worship service @ Railroad Park with the rain venue at the Nord Kalsem in Huxley.

PLEASE NOTE ➡ There will be **NO** worship at Palestine on August 24th due to the community service.

A New Beginning: Carmen's Journey to Safety and Self-Reliance

Carmen Ortiz was born in Charco, Nariño, Colombia. At 11, her family relocated to Buenaventura, where she finished high school and watched her father build a small business. Violence in the region forced the family to move again — this time to Bogotá, in search of safety and stability.

In Bogotá, Carmen reconnected with a childhood friend who would become her life partner. Together, they launched *Frutería*, a fruit-selling business Carmen successfully operated for 17 years. During that time, she also became a mother to her son, Adiel Jesús.

In 2023, violence once again disrupted their lives. Fearing for their safety, Carmen and Adiel fled to Ecuador and applied for asylum through the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Life in Ecuador was grueling.

"We were homeless. I had to sleep with my son under a bridge," she recalls. "He got sick and had to be hospitalized."

After more than a year, IOM helped process their immigration status and arranged travel to the U.S. In July 2024, they arrived in Houston — exhausted, hungry, and unsure of what came next. The guide assigned to help them was rarely available. Desperate for help and food, Carmen approached airline staff to ask about a delayed flight.

"We were so hungry. I just wanted to know when our flight would leave and instead, three employees brought us full meals. I started to cry. I had just arrived, and people were already helping me."

Their flight to Des Moines departed at midnight and landed at 2 a.m., where they were welcomed by Chuck, a caseworker from LSI (Lutheran Services in Iowa). He brought them to a hotel, where Carmen remembers feeling overwhelmed.

"I was scared and confused. I remember thinking: Are we safe? Are we okay?"

Sixteen days later, LSI helped Carmen and Adiel move into their first apartment. From that point, life began to change. Carmen enrolled in English classes,

received assistance with legal paperwork, healthcare, and food — and soon found two jobs: one with Des Moines Public Schools, and another at Sam's Club.

"I'm incredibly grateful. LSI helped me with everything."

But life without a car in a Midwestern winter was difficult. Carmen walked long distances through the snow, waited for buses, or spent \$60 a week on rideshares, just to get to work and get her son to school. During a routine check-in, Carmen's caseworker Shaima heard about these challenges and referred her to Duaa, an IDA Specialist at LSI. Duaa introduced her to the matched savings program, which helps participants purchase essential assets — like a car — through financial education and support.

"I'd wake up my son very early so we could catch the school bus from our old address. Then I'd rush to work and still be late."

Carmen had already saved \$2,000 on her own, knowing a car would be vital for her family's stability. Through LSI's Individual Development Accounts program, she opened an account at Veridian Credit Union, completed budgeting and asset-specific classes, and received one-on-one coaching from Juan Lourido, Business Development Specialist at LSI. Juan helped her understand financing, credit, and how to identify reliable used cars online. With his help, Carmen purchased a safe, fuel-efficient 2015 Toyota Prius that fits her family's needs and budget. "I never thought I could buy a car especially one that was safe and good quality. Now I take my son to school and go to work. That means everything to me." She also opened a secured \$500 credit card to begin building her credit history.

"These classes helped me prepare for when income slows down in the summer. I feel independent now, especially with the car."

Today, Carmen is preparing for her driving test, building a new life, and planning for the future. "When we left Colombia, we were running from threats and violence. Now I'm getting used to a new life, looking for opportunities to grow, maybe buy a house, and support my son's education."

When asked to describe her journey in one word, she answers without hesitation: **"Apoyo" — Support.**

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

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