

PREPARE YE



Reaching out in Christian love to all!

**THE PALESTINE PRESS
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

DECEMBER 2025



Rev. Eric Klimpel, Pastor
515-597-2620
936-444-3895 (cell)
ericklimpel@gmail.com

Nels Dovre, Youth Liaison
319-331-7368 (cell)
dovren@gmail.com

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

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page(s)

Pastoral Care	2
Tithes & Offering	3
Pastor's Monthly Report	4-5
Pastor's Thank You Note	5
Get Involved	6-7
Children's Choir Pic	8
Daily Faith Practices	9
Confirmation Pictures	10
Birthday and Anniversaries	11
Winter Weather Policy	11
Monthly Calendar	12-13
Council Minutes	14-17
Prayer List for November 2025	17
Baptism Welcome and Pic	18
Ballard Summer Meal Program Thank You	18
Christmas Extravaganza Info	18
Kumla Pics and Thank You	19
College/Military Student Update	20
College Scholarship Reminder	20
Senior Tea Date Reminder	20
K.I.C.K. Upcoming Events	21
Advent and Christmas @ Palestine	22
Christmas Card List for Members	23

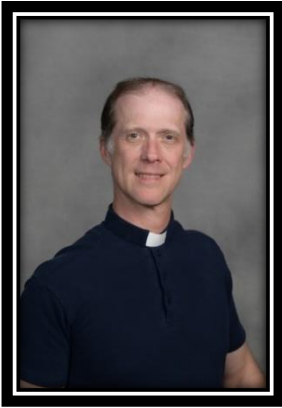


Palestine will accept your offering!

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



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



Being Prepared by the Christmas Wilderness
Once More -----With Pastor Eric

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’” – Matthew 3:1-4

Most of the time I am trying to prepare for the wilderness experience. It was the motto of my Boy Scouting life, “Be prepared!” However, I found it hard to get ready for the uncertain and unknown journey into the wilds of nature not to mention the “wilds of life.”

Every Advent year, we become reacquainted with John the Baptist whose calling is to prepare the way for the Lord. He meets the people amid the wilderness to prepare them from the wilderness instead of the people preparing for the wilderness. When I think about the wilderness I am reminded of scarcity, exposure, vulnerability and survival which I spend much of my life avoiding or shying away from. In the Bible, God spends most of the time preparing people for life from within the wilderness itself – from the Exodus event of 40 years to Jesus fasting in the wilderness for 40 days. It seems that we can learn much about God and ourselves from experiencing times in the wilderness.

Christmas is a wilderness time for us every single year. Maybe it’s a new addition to the family like a baby, a spouse or in-law? Maybe it’s the death of family member? Loss of a job? Moving to a new community? Or facing a health crisis? What makes it wild is the differences that expose us especially in a charged holiday like Christmas which is filled with nostalgia at every turn. What are we preparing for?

Well, within the wilderness God encounters us directly in our vulnerability as one who is a baby (*You can't get more vulnerable than a baby*). What does this mean for us this year since life has changed once more since last Christmas?

Back to John again. We prepare by being mindful of who we really are underneath the ego and the defensive fronts. John calls us to repent – look in the mirror and admit that we are broken and needy people who need God and one another. And take in the truth of Christmas that God meets us in that moment of tears, scarcity and exposure. Fills us with love, hope and joy so that we might meet others in their wilderness as well into a new year.

Perhaps this Christmas we will experience less anxious preparation for the holiday itself and let the holiday prepare us more for God's future.

Let us pray. My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I cannot see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear for you are with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen. (prayer by Thomas Merton)

THANK YOU

Thank you for the gift for Pastor Appreciation and for your support over the year. I am honored and humbled to work with you in bringing the nurturing gospel to the world. You are a beautiful and strong community of faith.

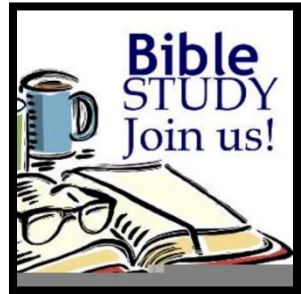
Peace,

Pastor Eric

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

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).

CONFIRMATION

Wednesday, 6:30pm – 8pm @ 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 with our Fjeldberg friends. Volunteer at the pantry! Contact Merle Rasmussen (vikinggames@huxcomm.net).

New Member Orientation Meetings

December 7th 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)

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 (date TBD) 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 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, or call 936-444-3895 (*leave a brief message*) – 13 sessions, workbooks available \$25. Just two in December - December 4th and 18th.





November 2nd



THE R.O.C.K. GROUP
IS GOING TO
ALASKA
SUMMER 2026

FOR MISSION WORK!



R.O.C.K.

FUNDRAISER!

Purchase your raffle tickets to be the lucky winner of a beautiful *Julie Huxford original* Winter patio planter!

\$10 per raffle.

Purchase after worship
until **drawing**
December 14th!



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

Advent Week 2

Focus: *Hope*

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13 NRSV). Read Romans 15:4-13

Advent Week 3

Focus: *Be Patient!*

“You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.” James 5:8 (NRSV). Read James 5:7-10

Advent Week 4

Focus: *God’s Beloved*

“Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God ...” (Romans 1:1-4a NRSV). Read Romans 1:1-7

Christmas 1

Focus: *The Meaning of Christmas!*

“Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God...” Hebrews 2:17 (NRSV). Read Hebrews 2:10-18

Confirmation

October 26, 2025



*Kinsey Calvert, Noelle
Hartsook, Garrett
Jensen, Ethan
Johnson, Emmalyn
Kruse, London Roelfs,
Mae Wilson, Taylor
Wuebker*



Ethan Johnson
November 2, 2025





December 2025

- 3 Daphne Wendt
- 4 Jody Calvert
- 5 Austin Klimpel
- Travis Young
- 11 Laurie Hill
- 12 Crystal Hughes
- Lora Young
- 15 Owen Williams
- 18 Grant Klingbeil
- Andrew Polich
- 19 Michael Brixius
- Spencer Wise
- 21 Louise Larson (79)
- 22 Jax Richter
- 24 Whitney Larson
- 25 Tim Wilson
- 27 Marvin Sorensen (92)
- 28 Ben Larson
- Rafe Madson
- 29 Max Clark
- 31 Gulnara Brixius
- Penn Hill
- Adaline Jolly



Let's shower the following members with birthday cards:

- 27 Marvin Sorensen (92nd)
See address in mailed newsletter.



- 5 Bill & Sandy Harleen
- 10 Joseph & Emilee Thomas
- 19 Scott & Alyssa Johnson
- Mike & Cindi Thomas
- 21 Kim & Bob Jensen
- 27 Donna & Mike Lisowski

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



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) and the church facebook page (Palestine Lutheran Church). **Sunday morning worship service cancellation will be made no later than 8:30 a.m.**



ALTAR GUILD: Lesa Lewis & Jen Pote

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

December 1st: Leonard & Sue Larson

December 15th: Bruce Hartman;

December 24th 4 p.m.: Leonard & Sue Larson

December 24th 7 p.m.:

USHERS: always needed

OFFERING COUNTERS: Brad Lewis

GREETERS*,:**

December 7th: Matt & Erika Williams; Marvin & Lori Edwards

December 14th: Bill & Sandy Harleen; Jason & Melinda Kam

December 21st: Tim & Julie Huxford; Ben & Candi Engler

December 24th: *If you are here and can greet, please do!*

December 29th: *If you are here and can greet, please do!*

*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.

2026 JANUARY						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			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	31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
30 <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30 a.m. Worship 6:00 p.m. Christmas program rehearsal KICK <i>Pastor gone</i>	Dec. 1 	2 10:00 a.m. Rock Creek Worship (Pastor) 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study
7 <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> 8:00 a.m. Council Meeting 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion <i>Music with Nels</i> New member orientation Sr. Tea 6:00 p.m. Christmas program rehearsal KICK	8 	9 10:00 a.m. Area Pastor's Study 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study
14 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship <i>Music with Nels</i> Christmas program rehearsal until noonish 4:30 p.m. Christmas program with meal to follow	15 <i>Newsletter deadline</i> 	16 10:00 a.m. Area Pastor's Study 1:00 p.m. Cedars Worship (Pastor) 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study
21 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy communion	22 	23 10:00 a.m. Area Pastor's Study 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study
28 <i>First Sunday of Christmas</i> 9:30 a.m. Worship	29 	30 10:00 a.m. Area Pastor's Study 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study



Pastor will be gone Nov. 29th – Dec. 6th. We are still having worship Nov. 30th. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Tim Jacobsen with Fjeldberg at 515-418-3328.

DECEMBER 2025

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 7:00 a.m. Men’s Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Quilters 5:30 p.m. K.I.C.K. Christmas program practice 6:30 p.m. Confirmation 6:30 p.m. R.O.C.K. @ Palestine	4 6:30 p.m. GriefShare @ Huxley Library	5	6 9 – 11 Christmas Cookie Extravaganza
10 7:00 a.m. Men’s Bible Study 12:30 p.m. Prayer Support Group 1:00 p.m. Quilters 5:30 p.m. K.I.C.K. Christmas program practice 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	11 7:00 p.m. Blue Christmas @ Trinity Methodist 	12	13 Church reserved (Private event)
17 7:00 a.m. Men’s Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Quilters 2:00 p.m. North Polk Ministerial Mtg (Pastor) <i>No confirmation</i> 6:30 p.m. R.O.C.K Gather @	18 11:00 a.m. Ballard Ministerial Mtg (Pastor) 6:30 p.m. GriefShare @ Huxley Library	19	20
24 10:30 a.m. Greenhill’s Worship (Pastor) <i>Nativity of our Lord</i> 4:00 p.m. Worship; Holy Communion 7:00 p.m. Worship; Holy Communion	25 Christmas Day 	26	27
31	Jan. 1 	2	3



See mailed newsletter for minutes.

This page intentionally left blank.

This page intentionally left blank.

This part of the page intentionally left blank.



Remember in Prayer

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

Dick Brown, Penny Brown, Kristy Brownfield, Gloria Dovre, Sam Engler, Marlys Hartman, Jon Irwin, Terri Irwin, Betsy Johnson, Helen Kepler, Rose Locker, Gemma Lynch, Donna Millang, Chris Nelson, Debra Ness, Cindy Peterson, Larry Pote, Henry Rumbaugh, Jean Sandquist, Tim Shoemaker, 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



**We welcome our new brother and
sister in Christ:
*Koe Hillebo and Soren Hillebo***

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

Koe: Born 3-5-22
Soren: Born 2-17-25
Baptized November 7, 2025

*Koe & Soren are the children of Austin &
Ashley Hillebo*



*Thank you so much for your generous
gift to the Ballard Summer Meal
Program. Because of the generosity of
our donors, we were able to serve 8757
meals to kids in the Ballard school
district.*



**There is a sign up in fellowship
hall to help provide your
delicious goodies for our sale.**

*We are so appreciative of our
congregation's support of this
fundraiser.*



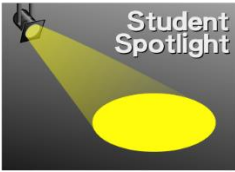
Tusen Takk!

Thank you to everyone that provided salads, desserts, peeled potatoes, made kumla balls and helped in the kitchen. We also appreciate those that came to eat or order.



Thanks to K.I.C.K. Kumla servers





COLLEGE/MILITARY UPDATES:

This month we are featuring:
Alise Van Pelt

Alise is in her second year at USD (University of South Dakota) and will be starting nursing school there this spring. She's enjoying going to games, and also works at a daycare. She's excited to start her nursing program.



College Scholarships

Treasurer, Kari Sandquist, reminds college students desiring to receive a Palestine scholarship that they **must notify the church office by letter or e-mail** of their name, address and college or vocational school **by December 15th**.

Email: palestinelutheran@gmail.com

Mailing address: PO Box 189, Huxley, IA 50124



*Senior Tea
Sunday,
December 7th
Following worship*

Invitations were mailed and
RSVP's requested.



K.I.C.K. Upcoming Activities - Fun, Fellowship & Service!

*All 3rd-6th graders are invited to participate
in this group.*

- **Christmas Program Practice - Started November 30!** Our Christmas program will be on December 14, and we will start practicing songs after worship with Nels after worship every Sunday.

Practices will be for grades 3-6 on the following dates/times:

- Wednesday, December 3rd - 5:30 PM meal, 6-7:30 practice
- Sunday, December 7th 6-7:30 PM - Snack provided
- Wednesday, December 10th - 5:30 PM meal, 6-7:30 practice
- Sunday, December 14th 10:30 AM-12 noon - final practice with all kids PreK-grade 6



- Program:
 - 4:30 Special Music
 - 5:00 Program
 - Meal to follow, served by Confirmation families

We will send out a sign-up for volunteers and snack/meal donations for our practices. **All program participants are requested to bring a dozen cookies to share for the meal.** ROCK kids are encouraged to help us and earn service hours.

Contact a K.I.C.K. Advisor with any questions:

Erika Williams

515-229-7897

erikawllms@gmail.com

Shelley Klingbeil

641-777-1908

shelleyklingbeil@gmail.com

Melinda Kam

515-230-1801

melindaharleen@hotmail.com

Heather Swan

515-298-0938

msswan1006@hotmail.com

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT PALESTINE

“Prepare Ye” advent theme. Advent materials will be available in fellowship hall. The handbook is on our website. Pastor Eric has many resources available to us to prepare for Jesus:

- ❖ Advent Calendars, Devotion booklets, Family Devotions and Activities booklets, and the Holiday Resource Guide will be available in front of the sanctuary entrance in fellowship hall by the first Sunday of Advent.
- ❖ **Advent Wreath kits will be available November 30th.**
Donation for materials is appreciated.

Special Advent Offering: Each Sunday of Advent you are invited to contribute to our special advent offering. Please designate on your offering if you wish for it to be towards the special offering.

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2025

Children & Families of Iowa

FAMILY ADVENT DEVOTIONS 2025 – ELCA GOOD GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAY. School supplies for a classroom. Far too many of the world's children don't go to school because they can't afford the supplies. By providing school books, paper and pencils, you provide the building blocks for a brighter future. \$300 for classroom of 30, \$10 per child

Blue Christmas: Wednesday, December 11th 7 p.m. @
Trinity Methodist

Christmas Eve: *Nativity of Our Lord*; Holy Communion
4:00 p.m. (*livestreamed*) (family worship)
7:00 p.m. (acoustic worship)

Christmas Day (Dec 25) – Video message upload on Palestine website (www.plchuxley.com)

Christmas Hymn Festival (Dec 28) “Lessons & Carols”
9:30a.m.

Epiphany Celebration Sunday (Jan 11) – 9:30 a.m.
Star of Wonder Worship



Here is a list of Palestine Members who are 85 or older (*), widowed the last 2 years, and/or homebound to some degree. Please consider sending a Christmas card!

*Bernadine Cast	*Vivian Lundgren
*Nancy Fausch	*Quinn and Norma McBride
*Marlys Hartman	*Judy McKinney
*Dolores Hauge	*Lyle and Pat Martin
Helen Kepler	*Marvin Sorensen
*Leona Larson	Oriett and Bob Snider
Louise Larson	Garry Wirtz
*Ronald and *Rosalie Locker	

See mailed newsletter for addresses.

Palestine Lutheran Church
1375 HWY 210
PO BOX 189
Huxley, IA 50124-8110
Address service requested