



 *Palestine*
Lutheran Church

Reaching out in Christian love to all!

**THE PALESTINE PRESS
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

JANUARY 2025



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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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page(s)

Pastoral Care	2
Tithes & Offering	3
Pastor's Monthly Report	4-5
Get Involved	6-7
Senior Choir Pic	7
Daily Faith Practices	8
Christmas Extravaganza	9
Sr. Tea Pics	10
Birthdays and Anniversaries	11
Monthly Calendar	12-13
Council Minutes	14-19
Prayer List for December	19
Offering envelopes available	19
Weather Policy Reminder, Annual Meeting and Chili Cook-Off	20
Christmas Program Pics	21
Thank You's	22
College/Military Update	23
Riverside Bible Camp Upcoming Events	23

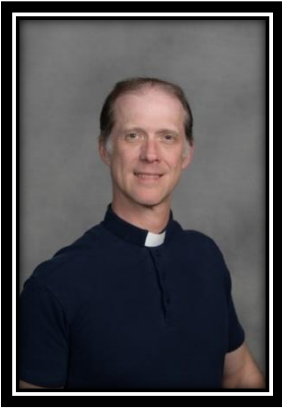


Tithes & Offering

Palestine will accept your offering!

1. **Bring** to worship service with you and place in offering plates.
2. **Mail** check to:
Palestine Lutheran Church
PO 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.
4. **Text GIVE** to 515-207-6435.

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



Living into the “New” -----

-----With Pastor Eric

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. Isaiah 65:17

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also, he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Revelations 21:5

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19

Happy New Year!

What’s the big deal about a new year? What makes the number 365 so special? Okay, it’s the cycle of earth’s revolution around the sun but when do we need to begin counting? After all we need to figure out first and foremost which calendar to recognize – the Hebrew calendar, or the Roman calendar, or the Mayan calendar, or perhaps the Chinese calendar? We might have to decide which cycle to reference solar or lunar? The church calendar year begins at the end of November, or the beginning of December with Advent – so we are living into the new year for about a month already! When I think about “the new year” I consider the most important word in the phrase - “NEW!” What does it mean to be “new”?

The Bible uses the word “new” many times to promote joy, hope and much faith in its characters and readers alike – new life, new hope, new world, new day. You cannot help but feel something when this word is attached to it. Some people tend to react to “new” with anxiety while others “pure joy.” We can understand

what new means with some synonyms “fresh, original” as if taken right out of the box at Christmas. A new toy comes right from the maker and never played with before. Or, new can mean “different” as a “used antique car” can be “new” to me if I have never owned it. I believe that Jesus gifts the world with a new way of life which hinges on a present loving God. Each day is new and accessible just like our God. With Jesus comes a perspective that brings growth, value and gratitude with every interaction and experience in time. A “new year” may begin when a significant event occurs like a birth of a baby, or the death of a loved one. We perceive that life will be different in dramatic and formative ways and with that change comes growth on our part, so we become new as well.

Jesus assures us that we can embrace the new on our journey and not be afraid of change. Why? Because we already know the future. We know the end of the journey. We believe that God is with us always no matter what happens in life or death. As we enter 2025, the “new year”, and celebrate “*what was*” while reflecting on “*what is*” with a tentative hopefulness in “*what will be*” remember that God is the boundless love that keeps us close and assures us of eternal life because of Jesus.

Let us pray. Gracious God, boundless in love and grace, keep us close and open us to the newness of life each day, so that we might draw strength, hope and life from it. Take our fear of change away and replace it with faith in your Holy Spirit’s activity to bring about goodness and righteousness for Jesus’ sake we pray. Amen.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR
2025!**

GET INVOLVED

ZOOM Bible Study

Tuesdays from 7:00pm – 8:00pm – Life By His Word Bible Study Series: Paul's Missionary Work and Epistles – Study of ROMANS

This Bible study provides discussion questions, application, and summary insights. Each chapter and book of Paul's Mission Work and Epistles is explored, offering a rich and full approach to study and devotion. Each lesson is divided up in easy to use one-page handouts. The study includes teaching materials and student materials in two formats: PDF to print directly and RFT for customization. Copies are available in the Fellowship Hall at church.

Men's Bible Study

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

Food Pantry Ministry

Help serve at the local food pantry in Huxley with our Fjeldberg friends. Volunteer at the pantry! Contact Jackie Rasmussen (catsrus@huxcomm.net)

R.O.C.K. Group

For high school students. The R.O.C.K. Group will typically meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month from 6:30 – 8 p.m.

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 January 26th from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. at Fenceline Brewpub in Huxley, 107 S Main Ave, Huxley, IA 50124

New Member Orientation Meetings

January 12th 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

Senior Choir sang for us Dec. 8th.
It was the 2nd Sunday of Advent so it was all decorated and festive!





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 Christmas

Focus: *How do you describe grace?*

“From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.”

John 1:16 (NRSV)

Read John 1:10-18

Baptism of our Lord

Focus: *How do you support others to live out their baptismal covenant?*

“Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove.” Luke 3:21-22 (NRSV)

Read Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Focus: *What gives you strength as you believe in Christ?*

“Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana in Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.” John 2:11 (NRSV)

Read John 2:1-11

3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Focus: *How can we stay focused on Jesus?*

“And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.” Luke 4:20 (NRSV)

Read Luke 4:14-21

Christmas Extravaganza!

Dec. 7th



Thanks to everyone who participated in this annual R.O.C.K. event!



The ROCK group thanks everyone for participating in the raffle of the Christmas quilt at the Christmas Extravaganza.

McKenzie and Scott were the lucky recipient of this raffle.





Sr. Tea

Dec. 8th



***Thanks to our
Wonderful Kitchen
Staff***



**ENTERTAINMENT!
K.I.C.K. KIDS SANG**



BIRTHDAYS
THIS MONTH
January 2025

- 1 Haylie Clark
- Reagan Doty
- 3 Ryan Engles
- 4 Darren DeHaven
- Lori Schonhorst
- 5 Tracy Sheldahl
- 6 Sarah Hartman
- 7 Henry Rumbaugh (81st)
- 9 Angie Hartman
- Kent Klingbeil
- 11 Jay Harmon
- Tracy Rhoads
- 12 Laurie Biederman
- Tom Friedrichsen (75th)
- 13 Missy Larson
- 14 Escher Kopaska
- Mollie Sheldahl
- 17 Deb Kleppe
- 18 Bruce Hartman
- 19 Eden Richter
- 20 Casey Huxford
- 22 Cynthia Johnson (79th)
- 25 David Anderson (71st)
- Scott Bushaw
- Colton Larson

- 27 Melissa Kopaska
- 29 Harold Rittgers (96th)
- 30 Lesa Lewis
- Judy McKinney (87th)



Let's shower the following members with birthday cards:

Jan. 7th Henry Rumbaugh

Jan. 29th Harold Rittgers

Jan. 30th Judy McKinney

See mailed newsletter for addresses.



2 Pastor Eric & Teri Klimpel

27 Tom & Cindy Friedrichsen



ALTAR GUILD: Dennis & Donna Millang, Melanie Fausch, Teri Klimpel

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:
Jan. 5th: *needed*
Jan. 19th: *needed*




OFFERING COUNTERS: Matt & Erika Williams

Greeters*, **
Jan. 5th: Brad & Lesa Lewis; Laura Kepler
Jan. 12th: Mark & Robin Doty; Dax & Haylie Clark
Jan. 19th: Quinn & Norma McBride; Tom & Kari Huxford
Jan. 26th: Mark & Jen Pote; Wade & Holly Twedt

*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
29 1 st Sunday of Christmas No choir 9:30 a.m. Worship; Lessons and Carols No children's church No music with Nels	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>
5 2 nd Sunday of Christmas 8:00 a.m. Council Mtg 9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion <i>Music with Nels</i> <i>Annual reports due!</i>	6 <i>Epiphany of our Lord</i>	7 10 a.m. Rock Creek Worship Ankeny (Pastor) 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study
12 <i>Baptism of our Lord</i> 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship <i>Music with Nels</i> New member orientation	13	14 10 a.m. Area Pastor's Study 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study
19 2 nd Sunday of Epiphany 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion <i>Music with Nels</i> Annual Meeting Chili Cook-Off 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. 4H	20 <i>Martin Luther King Birthday</i>	21 10 a.m. Cedar's Worship in Madrid (Pastor) 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study
26 3 rd Sunday of Epiphany 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship Music with Nels 3:30 – 6 p.m. Riverside Family Sledding & Pizza (pre-register) 5:30 p.m. Theology on Tap	27	28 10 a.m. Area Pastor's Study 7:30 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study

2025						
FEBRUARY						
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	

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <i>Happy New Year's!</i>	2	3	4
8 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	9	10	11
15 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 12:30 p.m. Prayer Support Group 1:00 p.m. Quilters 2:00 p.m. North Polk Ministerial Assoc. Mtg 6:30 p.m. Confirmation <i>Feb. Newsletter deadline</i>	16 11:00 a.m. Ballard Ministerial Assoc. Mtg		18
22 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Green Hills Devotions 1:00 p.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Lesa on vacation 	23	24	25
29 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. Confirmation 	30	31	Feb. 1 



COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes can be found in the mailed newsletter.

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Remember in Prayer

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

Tracy Blackmer, Kristy Brownfield, Adrienne Brown, Matt Carver, Marlys Hartman, Crystal Hughes, Alice Kahler, Betsy Johnson, Judy McKinney, Andrew Polich, Larry Pote, Havanna Roelfs, Jean Sandquist, Tim Shoemaker, Pastor Stubbs, Omar Tesdell, Ramsey Tesdell

Family and Friends of: Arleta Wilson, Gary Davis, Shirley Saveraid, Clara Eisenmann, Dan Eisenmann, 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



If you need offering envelopes for the new year, they are in fellowship hall in packs of 25.

Be sure to write your name and member number on them. If you don't know your member number, look at the chart by the mailboxes. If you don't have a number, let the office know!



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.**

ANNUAL MEETING



The annual meeting is scheduled for **January 19, 2025**.

Deadline for submitting annual reports is **January 5, 2025**.

Please email to the church office in word format:

palestinelutheran@gmail.com

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

The Great Palestine Chili Cook-off!



The R.O.C.K. Group is hosting the 4th annual chili cook-off following the annual meeting on January 19th. Bring a crock pot of your best recipe or just come prepared to sample them all.

Vote for your favorite by placing money in it's jar. Winner will be awarded a personalized champion apron! Proceeds go towards the R.O.C.K. Group's summer mission trip.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 12-15-24

“The Birth of Jesus”



Thanks to the confirmation kids and parents for providing the meal after program!



THANK YOU

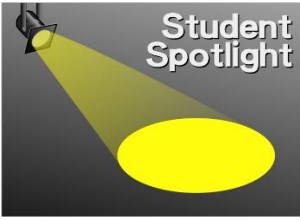
Thank you to everyone who supported our KICK group for our presentation of “The Birth of Jesus”. The kids did a phenomenal job with all of the help from parents, Children’s Church teachers, and many others.

January is our “Souper Bowl of Caring” month where we will collect donations of cans of chunky-style soups or monetary donations for the Food Pantry. We will have a collection spot in the Fellowship Hall through the month and will wrap up on Sunday, Feb 2.

Thank you for all of the lovely birthday cards sent to me by my church friends.

Vivian Lundgren





COLLEGE/MILITARY UPDATES:
This month we are featuring:

Reagan Doty

Reagan graduated from Sacramento State University on Dec. 14th with a Bachelor's of Science in Psychology. Throughout undergraduate studies and years of work in non-profits she developed an interest in the mental well-being and interpersonal dynamics of others and plans on attending Graduate school for Counseling/Social Work in Fall 2025.



3001 Riverside Rd.
Story City, IA 50248

January 26th: Family Sledding & Pizza event

Join us for a night of family fun! Hot cocoa, sledding and memories galore.

What you can expect: 3:30-6:00pm - meet at Dining Hall

Price: \$15 per person (\$50/family max) (3 and under free)

Register TODAY @ www.riversidelbc.org/registration

Plan for a night of FUN with your kids at camp! Sledding, Broom Ball, Rec Hall and Pizza- oh yeah baby! Warm up between outdoor sessions with some hot pizza and hot cocoa. We care about creating space for kids and parents to connect and have a ton of fun together.

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