



O come, let us adore Him . . .



1375 Highway 210

P.O. Box 189

Huxley, IA 50124

515-597-2620 (Pastor)

515-597-2624 (Office)

palestinelutheran@gmail.com

www.plchuxley.com

Reaching out in Christian love to all!

JANUARY 2024



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 |
| Get Involved | 6-7 |
| Winter Weather Policy Reminder | 7 |
| Daily Faith Practices | 8 |
| Senior Tea Pictures | 9-10 |
| Birthday Card Shower | 10 |
| Birthday and Anniversaries..... | 11 |
| Monthly Calendar | 12-13 |
| Council Minutes | 14-15 |
| Prayer List for December 19, 2023 | 16 |
| Senior Choir Picture | 16 |
| Christmas Extravaganza Pictures | 17 |
| Christmas Program Pictures | 18-19 |
| New Members | 19 |
| College/Military Student Update | 20 |
| Annual Meeting | 21 |
| Chili Cook Off | 21 |
| Riverside Upcoming Events | 22 |
| Thank You | 22 |
| Fish Fry Date | 23 |
| K.I.C.K. Thank You & Upcoming Events | 23 |

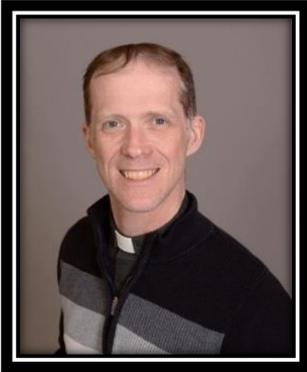


Tithes & Offering

Palestine will accept your offering!

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

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



Celebrating THE miracle of Christmas ----- With Pastor Eric

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. – John 3:16

For nothing will be impossible with God." - Luke 1:37

“Miracles” What are miracles? Do we live in an age of miracles? Smart phones, heart transplants, moon landings, gene splicing, genetically modified crops, and the list goes on.

Any one of these scientific accomplishments would be considered a miracle, or worst-case witchcraft only a couple centuries earlier. We use the word “miracle” with less regard and substitute words like “discovery” or “realize” or “uncover” with more excitement. Miracle comes from the Greek for “act of the divine” with a secondary meaning of “an extremely outstanding event, thing or accomplishment.” The Christmas and Epiphany season is a time in which the word “miracle” takes stage in a definitive way. Our society and culture come together for a moment of a few weeks each year to confront, contemplate and celebrate the greatest miracle of all existence. The Lord God almighty creator of heaven and earth comes into this world to be fully and completely human! God became a baby boy who was born into the humblest of estates, in the most ordinary way, and so vulnerable until the end...on the cross!

Every miracle under the sun comes out of this embodied love whom we know as Immanuel, Jesus of Nazareth. Whenever we witness an act of such selfless love then we can declare that we have seen a true miracle. Let me give you an example.

When I was serving a church in the suburbs of Houston, I used to stop by a Starbucks on my way to the office from home. On this particular Saturday I was extra-stressed because it was a day before Christmas eve, and we had three services to prepare. Along with those services was the realization that this Christmas would be my last at this church. I thought about these things as I approached the counter to order my venti, hazelnut, latte. I prayed quietly as I stared up at the menu board, “Lord, I can’t do it. Help me so that I can help them.” Suddenly, a young boy about five years old tugged at my jacket. He said, “Excuse me, sir. God wants me to buy you your coffee today. He loves you.” I smiled and looked around to see the boy’s father smiling at me from the corner of the shop and he nodded. The boy put the money on the counter and walked away. I said, “Thank you and Merry Christmas!” At that moment a peace came over me along with a warm feeling of a hot latte and love. From that point through my departure from that congregation, I had an inner conviction that everything would be as it should be for me and for the congregation.

My experience in the Starbucks is definitely not a cure for cancer, or the birth of a child, or the moon landing, but I believe that it was a miracle, a true miracle both spectacular and ordinary at the same time. These miracles occur every single day in this world and in your life!! I suspect that we fail to see them or recognize them for what they truly are. These are the miracles that will bring peace to families, peace to the middle east, and bring about the Kingdom of God in our midst. At least, consider what miracles are happening around you and how you are involved in them yourself.

Let us pray. Loving God, who became one of me for me, open my eyes and heart to the miracles all around me, so that I might have peace and share in that peace with my family, neighbors, coworkers, friends, and strangers. May I be a part of your next miracle in Jesus’s name I pray. Amen.

GET INVOLVED

ZOOM Bible Study Tuesdays from 7:30pm – 8:30pm via ZOOM (*see weekly email announcements for link*)

Life of Jesus series is designed to help participants take a closer, more personal look at Jesus as they explore His significant life events and teachings. Each study includes 12 stand-alone lessons. Each book includes teacher notes and student sheets which include an opening activity, related Scripture, discussion and application questions.

Miracles is a 12-session study which gives participants the opportunity to study the teachings of Jesus. Session titles are

- Sight for the Blind
- The Centurion's Servant
- The Incarnation
- The Resurrection

This study used a simple, user-friendly format consisting of four major components.

- Focus — introduces the participants to the concepts that will be explored during the session.
- Inform — guides participants into Scripture to learn what God says about different issues.
- Connect — provides activities and questions to help participants apply the truth found in Scripture to their lives.
- Vision — suggests activities for additional growth during the week to come.

For help purchasing books, *if needed*, then please contact ericklimpel@gmail.com

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)

Men's Bible Study

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

Youth Confirmation Ministry

For youth in 7th and 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

R.O.C.K. Group

For high school students. The R.O.C.K. Group will meet January 10th from 6:30 – 8 p.m.

New Member Orientation Meetings

January 14th after worship in the south conference room as arranged with Pastor Eric. 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 January 21st from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. at Fenceline Beer Lab in Huxley, 107 S Main Ave, Huxley, IA 50124



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.**



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

Baptism of our Lord

Focus: *How does baptism connect disciples with God and other disciples?*

“You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

Mark 1:11 (NRSV)

Read Mark 1:4-11

2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Focus: *How do you personally invite and encourage others to follow Christ?*

“[Jesus] found Philip and said to him ‘Follow me.’” John 1:43 (NRSV)

Read John 1:43-51

3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Focus: *How do you respond to Jesus on a daily basis?*

“Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Mark 1:17 (NRSV)

Read Mark 1:14-20

4th Sunday of Epiphany

Focus: *How might disruptions help you to know Jesus?*

“I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” Mark 1:24 (NRSV)

Read Mark 1: 21-28.



SENIOR TEA EVENT Sunday, December 3rd



Some of our
fabulous
kitchen cooks
and help. →
Thank You!





**K.I.C.K kids providing musical
entertainment with Nels –
*Thanks!***



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

7th **Henry Rumbaugh**

15th **Richard Cast**

30th **Judy McKinney**

*See mailed newsletter for addresses.
I don't like to publish personal information.*



January 2024

- 1 Haylie Clark
Reagan Doty
- 3 Ryan Engles
- 4 Darren DeHaven
Lori Schonhorst
- 5 Tracy Sheldahl
- 6 Sarah Hartman
- 7 Henry Rumbaugh (80th)
- 9 Angie Hartman
Kent Klingbeil
- 11 Jay Harmon
Tracy Rhoads
- 12 Tom Friedrichsen (74th)
- 13 Missy Larson
- 14 Escher Kopaska
Mollie Sheldahl
- 15 Richard Cast (92nd)
- 17 Deb Stowe
- 18 Bruce Hartman

- 19 Eden Richter
- 20 Casey Huxford
- 22 Cynthia Johnson (78th)
- 25 David Anderson (70th)
Scott Bushaw
Colton Larson
- 27 Melissa Kopaska
- 30 Tyler Johnson
Lesia Lewis
Judy McKinney (86th)



- 2 Pastor Eric & Teri Klimpel
- 27 Tom & Cindy Friedrichsen (45th)

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



ALTAR GUILD: Donna Millang

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

January 7th: David & Vallery Eisenmann

January 21st: Doreen Blackmer

USHERS: Brad & Lesa Lewis; Andrew & Cally Larson

OFFERING COUNTERS: *needed*

GREETERS* , **:

January 7th: Dax & Haylie Clark, Mark & Robin Doty

January 14th: Laura Kepler, Eric & Teri Klimpel

January 21st: Darin & Katie Madson, Mark & Jen Pote

January 28th: Chris & Amanda Richter, Jeff & Kim Van Pelt

*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 |
|--|---|---|
| 31 <i>1st Sunday of Christmas</i> No Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship; Lessons and Carols No music with Nels | 1 Happy New Year's Day! | 2 10:00 a.m. Area Pastors' Study 7:30 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study |
| 7 <i>Baptism of our Lord</i> 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion <i>Music with Nels</i> | 8 | 9 10:00 a.m. Area Pastors' Study 7:30 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study |
| 14 <i>2nd Sunday of Epiphany</i> 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship <i>Music with Nels</i> <i>"Cookie Sunday"</i> <i>New member orientation</i> Annual Meeting Reports due | 15 <i>Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday</i> | 16 10:00 a.m. Area Pastors' Study 7:30 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study |
| 21 <i>3rd Sunday of Epiphany</i> 8:00 a.m. Council Mtg 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion <i>Music with Nels</i> 5:00 p.m. 4H 5:30 p.m. Theology on Tap | 22 | 23 10:00 a.m. Area Pastors' Study 7:30 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study |
| 28 <i>4th Sunday of Epiphany</i> 8:30 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Worship <i>Music with Nels</i> Annual Meeting Chili Cook Off | 29 | 30 10:00 a.m. Area Pastors' Study 7:30 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study |

FEBRUARY 2024

| 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 | | |

JANUARY 2024

| WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|---|---|
| 3 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Quilters <i>No confirmation</i> | 4 | 5 | 6 <i>Epiphany of Our Lord</i> |
| 10 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. | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 17 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 Mtg 6:30 p.m. Confirmation | 18 11:00 a.m. Conference 1 Worship & Luncheon | 19 <i>Newsletter deadline</i> Ladies Getaway @ Riverside → | 20 |
| 24 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Green Hills 1:00 p.m. Quilting 6:30 p.m. Confirmation | 25 | 26 | 27 2 – 6 p.m. Family Sledding @ Riverside |
| 31 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. Confirmation | 1 | 2 | 3 |

For an online version of this calendar go to our website <http://www.plchuxley.com/> and then click on the *About Us* tab and then *Events* tab, and then click on *Calendar of Events*



See mailed newsletter for council minutes.



Remember in Prayer

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

Lee Briggs, Mark Braun, Adrienne Brown, Sandy Harleen, Dolores Hauge, Alice Kahler, Sandra Kalsem, Vivian Lundgren, Deb Ness, Havanna Roelfs, Chad Rumbaugh, Jean Sandquist, Tim Shoemaker, Omar Tesdall, Ramsey Tesdell, Diane Wright

Family and friends of: Marilyn Saveraid, Mary Lou Hoover, Roy Paradise, Anita Brendeland, Linda Fausch, Alvina Larson, Warren Johnson, Bev Echtenkamp, Merlin Lyon, Mindy Kahler, Kathy Saveraid, Arleta Wilson, Gary Davis, Shirley Saveraid, Clara Eisenmann, Dan Eisenmann, Dena Bloodsworth, Charles Bowers, Sarah Piper, Helen Miller, Diane Larson, Jacob Leedom, Dan Bushaw, Elaine Paradise, Charlize Flick



Our senior choir offered encouraging melodies of praise every Sunday in December

Christmas Extravaganza!

December 9th

Thank you to all the wonderful bakers in our congregation that provided treats for our annual fundraiser. The vendors were a big hit as well. We raised \$1,025! We will be donating a portion of that to meals from the Heartland when we package meals on the 20th.



"Manger Tales" Christmas Program December 10th





*Confirmation Group for
their part in the
Christmas program*

*(minus Owen who was
running slides)*

Kitchen Help for meal after program



NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED December 10th

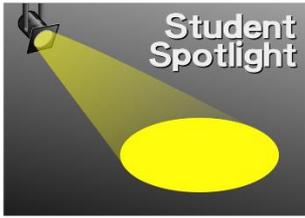


Scott Bushaw

Kim Jensen

**Gulnara &
Mike Brixius**

***Welcome to
our church
family!***



COLLEGE/MILITARY UPDATES:

This month we are featuring:

JOSIE JENSEN

& ISAAC LARSON



Josie finished at Aveda in Des Moines December 6th. She'll be working full time at Finesse in Ames starting in mid-January. Congrats, Josie!

Isaac was recently awarded Soldier of the Quarter. Various mental and physical tests and interviews went into obtaining this achievement. His contract isn't up until December 2024, but he is currently in the process of re-enlisting so that he can secure the country he wants to be stationed in when his contract is up. His unit is disbanding so he will be placed in another unit until he is able to leave for his second service term.



ANNUAL MEETING



The annual meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2023.
Deadline for submitting annual reports is January 14, 2023.

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 3rd annual chili cook-off following the annual meeting on January 28th. 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 - service projects and year end retreat.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Summer Staff: We already have more than 40 staff applications for next summer! If you or someone you know would like to work at Riverside, please check out our 2024 Make a Difference video below, learn more about our summer staff needs & submit your application.

January 19-20th: LADIES GETAWAY

Who: Adult Women

Dates: Friday, January 19-Saturday, January 20

Price: \$55

REGISTER NOW! Go to www.riversidelbc.org/registration

January 27th: Family Sledding & Pizza event 2-6 p.m.

Meet in the Dining Hall

Join us for a family-focused fun time at Riverside!

Price: \$10 per person or \$50 max per family

(3 and under free)

REGISTER NOW! Go to <https://www.riversidelbc.org/registration>



Thank you to everyone who sent me Best Wishes cards and Birthday cards. It was truly appreciated!

Vivian Lundgren



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

for our

2nd Annual Fish Fry

Friday, February 23rd.

More details to follow soon!



THANK YOU to all of our participants, musicians, helpers and congregational family for supporting and attending our Christmas program this year. Thanks also to the Confirmation families for putting on a great meal afterward! We really enjoyed performing "Manger Tales" and being able to share the Christmas story from the viewpoint of the animals in the Nativity.

January Activities:

We are going to collect change throughout the month of January for our "Souper Bowl of Caring." The change or other donations we receive will be collected and then given to the Huxley Food Pantry for their use. Look for the soup pot with the sign on it in the Fellowship hall. We are looking forward to being able to support local families in need!

Looking ahead: Watch the newsletter, weekly announcements and KICK Facebook group for dates for wheelchair pushing, family game night and other activities!

Contact any K.I.C.K. advisor with any questions:

Shelley Klingbeil

641-777-1908

shelleyklingbeil@gmail.com

Erika Williams

515-229-7897

erikawllms@gmail.com

Courtney Nobiling

515-979-8729

cnobiling@ballard.k12.ia.us

Shannon Wilson

515-450-7002

shannon@iastate.edu

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