

In This Issue

December Worship Schedule.....	2
Children's Chalice.....	3
Finance Update.....	3
Look For The Light Info for Parents.....	4
Youth Ministry Zone.....	5
Food Pantry News.....	6
Diaper Ministry Update.....	6
Third Tuesday Bible Study.....	6
Men's Group.....	6
Ketchup Club.....	6
Book Club.....	7
Scrip For Christmas.....	7
Thank You Decorators.....	8
Blankets for The Hospitality Center.....	8
Prayer Team.....	8
Brassworks Christmas Concert.....	9
Grieving and the Holidays.....	9
December Calendar.....	10
Puzzle Page.....	11
Medical Equipment Closet.....	11
December Volunteers.....	12
December Altar Flowers.....	12

Celebrating Our 30th Year of "Look For the Light"


Live Nativity Christmas Program

Join our children and youth, our choirs,
and the animals of the manger
in our sanctuary
as they retell the story of Jesus' birth.

Sunday, December 15th
9:30 a.m.



2024



December Worship Services

December 1st, 9:30 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent

December 8th, 9:30 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent

December 15th, 9:30 a.m.

Look For The Light Christmas Program

December 22nd, 9:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24th, 4:00 p.m.

Family Christmas Eve Service

December 24th, 10:30 p.m.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

December 29th, 9:30 a.m.

Service of Lessons and Carols



The Children's Chalice

Holy Communion Lutheran Church December, 2024



HAPPY BAPTISM BIRTHDAY to the following children
who were baptized during the month of December:
Giulia Ferrentino Jameson Palmgren

SANTA'S NIGHT OUT will be on **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6 th from 5:30 – 8:30pm.**

It's a night designed for parents to have some extra time to prepare for the Christmas season before it gets into full swing! The theme of the night will be based on the popular movie THE STAR. A pizza dinner will be provided for the children. We will also continue the tradition of the "Night Before Christmas" story with Patrick and gift exchange, so please bring a \$1 gift wrapped as a present. To support our HCLC Food Pantry, please also bring a box of cereal.

Bring your holiday cheer and a friend too if you want!

Wear your comfy pajamas!
Bring your sleeping bag or a favorite blanket!
Bring a box of cereal for the HCLC Food Pantry!
Remember a wrapped \$1 gift for the gift exchange too!
Please use this [LINK](#) to sign up by December 3 rd .

The **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** will be on **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 th at 9:30am.**

Please use this [LINK](#) to sign up to share 2 dozen cookies (homemade or store bought) for the **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM RECEPTION** in the lounge after the Christmas Program. Cookies may be dropped off in church during the final rehearsal on Saturday, December 14 th between 9:00am and 10:30am. (Please place them in the last pew.) Otherwise, bring them to the lounge before the service on Sunday, December 15 th . If you have any questions, please contact Lisa at sundayschool.hclc@gmail.com.

THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON...
December 22 nd , December 29 th and January 5 th
SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL RESUME ON JANUARY 12 th

HAVE A VERY...



Finance Update

October Finance Numbers

Revenue: \$38,575.09
Expense: \$48,566.67
Net Income: (\$9,991.58)

Year-to-date Finance Numbers

Revenue: \$437,977.67
Expense: \$444,820.50
Net Income: \$(6,842.83)



“Look for the Light”

A Christmas program by
Holy Communion Lutheran Church



WHEN: Sunday, December 15, 2024 at 9:30 A.M.

WHO: All the children, youth, choirs, and other members of HCLC

WHERE: Holy Communion Lutheran Church

Ways you can help our children be a part of this special day:

1. Have children at rehearsals on these dates: Sundays, Dec. 1, and Dec. 8.
rehearsals in the choir room - during church as well as regular Sunday School time.
2. Practice our new songs “Noel” on the 2021/22 practice CD or stream *Noel* by Chris Tomlin and *Let There be Light* by Point of Grace.
4. Make participants’ costumes. No-sew Instructions will be sent home with song words.
- 5. Please try to have children at the full rehearsal on Saturday, December 14, from 9 - 10:30 A.M. This will take place in the sanctuary. Enter through the main church doors at the back.**
6. Sunday, Dec 15: Have children dressed and in the lounge/youth room by 9:10 for warm ups, last minute instructions, and the calming of nerves!

Other ways to help:

1. Make a financial contribution to help pay for animals, snacks, etc.
2. Help older students run lines and remind them to read slowly!
3. Photograph the program. Let Kate know if you want to “officially” do this.
4. Help prepare the sanctuary on Saturday, December 14. I need some folks at 8:15 A.M. to move risers. Once kids arrive at 9 and they’re placed on the risers for rehearsals, we can start laying and taping the plastic. Hay will be spread after children leave at 10:30 A.M. There are other tasks during this rehearsal that parents who stay can help with too.
5. Help clean up after the program on Sunday, December, 15th. Many hands = light work!

Please call or email Kate Potter-Barrow with any questions, if you or your child needs an extra rehearsal, or with offers of help. Cell – 262-498-7593, or kpotterbarrow@gmail.com Texting is best.

THANK YOU. This’ll be fun!!!

Please note: The kids of HCLC will be singing at the 4 P.M. Christmas Eve service. I will simply call them up from the pews during the service, and we will sing something from the Christmas program. Hope to see you there as we celebrate the reason for the season!



With the busy month of December including Look for the Light rehearsals and program on Sunday, December 15th, we're going to jump ahead to the month of January...looking forward to our time together with all of you!!!

2nd - 4th Graders...and 5th-7th Graders



We're going to meet with all of you on Sunday, January 12th. We will gather together following worship and meet til Noon. We're looking forward to seeing you and definitely playing hide and seek with you all!!!

8th Grade Confirmation Class

(We will usually meet on the third Sunday of the month)

All of our 8th Graders are invited to join the pastors for a time to journey deeper into their own faith. We'll travel through the main stories of the Bible and ask, "What does God want us to hear in these words...what does God want us to learn and what is God calling us to do as followers of Christ?" We will dig deeper into what it means to be a Christian, what makes us Lutheran and what it means for us to live out our faith in our daily lives. Our next time to gather is Sunday, January 19th...we'll begin following worship and meet til Noon. Snacks will be provided...looking forward to seeing you all!!! (Please mark your calendars...Confirmation/Pentecost Sunday falls on Sunday, June 8, 2025.)



9th-12th Graders!!!! The pastors can't wait to have you join them for a time to check in with your hearts and minds, perhaps be a bit goofy, have a blast, and help cook dinner with them!!! That's right, "Dinner...or perhaps you call it supper." The next time we meet is Sunday, January 19th from 5:00-6:30PM...and we'll begin in the kitchen where we'll all help prepare a meal to enjoy! See you there and come hungry!!!

Food Pantry News

A big, big thank you to all of you who continue to share in the ministry of Christ through your donations to the food pantry. In the two pantry days before Thanksgiving we served 212 families! This would not have been possible without the amazing pantry volunteers who managed to serve them all in a few hours and kept things running smoothly. We are so grateful for their dedication and the hours they give us!



For December there is a list for each week, with some special foods for the holiday.

December 1 - Sweet Tooth Sunday - sugar/powdered sugar, flour, frosting, cookie or cake mixes, packaged cookies, jello or pudding mix, corn muffin mix, candy, individual serving size bags of snack foods.

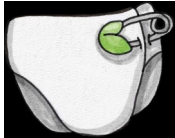
December 8 - Stock Up Sunday - canned fruit (especially pears and pineapple) canned pasta, pasta sauce, boxed inners like Hamburger Helper, soup, soda crackers.

December 15 - Stomach Stuffer Sunday - stuffing mix, chili or beef stew, 1 lb. bags of rice, tuna, pork & beans, canned ham (1- 5 lb. size)

December 22 - Sunday Brunch Sunday - pancake mix, syrup, cereal, peanut butter, jelly

Thanks again! Hoping you have a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Diaper Ministry Update



The Diaper Ministry is growing! Did you know that due to employee and volume discounts we can buy a great box of diapers or six packages of wipes for just \$10.00? Each box of diapers will help two to four babies! We would love to start 2025 with a healthy number of diapers and wipes and are asking you to consider donating \$10 to the diaper ministry. Also, our clients love taking home a book for their child. Do you have children's books at home you could donate to the DM?

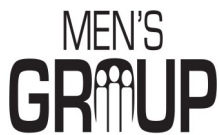
During the month of December we will be distributing diapers and wipes on Wednesday the 11th from 11AM to 1PM. Contact Kylee Albright kygregg@mac.com or Amy Larsen amylarsen2406@att.net for more information.

THIRD TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

December 17th is the date for the study of The Gospel of Mark on pages 373 to 385 in William Barclay's study guide. It begins with the dire warning of the Fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple. "But no man knows about that day and hour, not even the angels" (page 374). It's a reminder to live life prepared to meet Jesus.

Then, Mark 14:1-2 tells us that chief priests and scribes were plotting to kill Jesus. It is just two days before the Feast of the Passover when Jerusalem would be crowded with 3,000,000 pilgrims (page 378). What a setting for the crucifixion of Jesus!

And Judas Iscariot got impatient for Jesus to claim his kingship. He went to the chief priests to betray Jesus (Mark 14:10). Surely this would force Jesus to come into power! As Barclay writes on page 385: "the heart of sin is the desire to do what WE like and not what God likes."



Men's Group

All men are invited to join Pastor Mark in the lounge at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, December 13th. The group meets once a month for fellowship and friendly discussion. If you have any questions you can contact Pastor Mark at pastormark.hcl@gmail.com. All are welcome!

No Ketchup Club in December

December is a busy month for everyone, so the Ketchup Club will take the month off. In January we will gather to "catch up" with each other again!



For December the book club will be discussing The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store by James McBride. Moshe and Chona Ludlow own and operate the Heaven & Earth Grocery Store in the Chicken Hill neighborhood of Pottstown, Pennsylvania. The neighborhood is a quirky collection of blacks and European immigrants. When the state comes looking for a deaf black child, claiming that the boy needed to be institutionalized, the residents come together to keep the boy safe with them. It becomes clear how much the people of Chicken Hill have to struggle to survive at the margins of white Christian America and how damaging bigotry, hypocrisy, and deceit can be to a community. McBride shows that it is love and community-heaven and earth-that ultimately sustain us.



We will be meeting Wednesday, December 11th at 10:00 at Julie Burton's home. Please give Julie a call at 262-639-5914 to let her know you plan on attending.

In January 2025, we will be discussing Grandma Gatewood's Walk: The Inspiring Story of the Woman who saved the Appalachian Trail by Ben Montgomery.

Scrip Orders For The Holidays

It is time to think about ordering scrip for the holidays. Whether you use it for your own shopping or give the gift cards as gifts, scrip is an easy way to help support HCLC. There are LOTS of participating retailers and restaurants making it easy to find a gift for anyone on your shopping list. Check with the people at the Scrip table for a complete list. It is a good idea to order early to avoid any shortages or delivery delays. The deadline for scrip orders you want to receive before Christmas is **December 8th.**



Altar Flowers for 2025

We are taking reservations for 2025 altar flowers. Each vase will cost \$27.00 dollars this year. If you wish you can take the flowers after the worship service, or we can take them to a shut in member. When you fill out the form please specify which week you would like and the office will contact you to tell you if it is already full and arrange an alternate date. We have room for two vases of flowers each week. You can sign up for as many dates as you would like.

Your name _____

Number of vases ordered _____ Total enclosed _____

Given in honor/memory of _____

Given by _____

Preferred Date _____ I will pick up my flowers _____

Alternate Dates _____

Given in honor/memory of _____

Given by _____

Preferred Date _____ I will pick up my flowers _____

Alternate Dates _____



THANK YOU!

Thank you to the hard-working crew of tree wranglers, garland hangers, rood beam wreath wrestlers and tree decorators who decorated the sanctuary on Sunday, November 24th! Your efforts to make the sanctuary incredibly beautiful help to add to our worship during the Advent and Christmas season. You are much appreciated! Please say thanks to these folks when you see them!

Val Conner
Jenny Palmgren
Andrew Palmgren
Patrick Bebow
Elaine Lewis
JoAnne Breese-Jaek
Shelley Lussmyer
Carl Lussmyer
Lori Neu
Dave Knudsen
Laurie Knudsen
Gary Wee
Pastor Laura

Kate Potter-Barrow
Barb Salvo
Carol Riekema
Kay Krause
Heather Doidge, Jordan, Asia and Jackson
Mindy Poffenberger, Kenzie, Brinley and Jaxson
JoEllen Childs & Aaron
Rose Adamski
John Adamski
Barb Pedersen
Patrick Bebow
Dave Krueger
Pastor Mark

If we missed anyone who helped, please know your help was greatly appreciated as well.

Finally, an extra special thank-you to the **Monday Morning Bible Fluffer Ladies** – Shelley Lussmyer, Joni Reske, Karen Larsen, Lynn Sinclair, Grace Deibert, Linda Godson, Karen Larsen, Elaine Lewis, Jo Nissen, Lisa Petersen, Barb Meier, Rose Adamski, Marianne Jensen, Julie Burton, Kate Potter-Barrow, Susan Barbee and Pastor Laura. You saved us hours of work on Sunday!

Blankets for the Hospitality Center

Do you have gently used blankets you no longer need? We are collecting them to bring to the Hospitality Center, where they will be given away during our cold winter months. Blankets can be dropped off in the narthex or the church office.

Prayer Team

The HCLC Prayer Team wants to pray for you! Share your joys, sorrows and concerns and your brothers and sisters in Christ will hold you in prayer. There is power and blessing in praying for each other. Send your prayer requests to amylarsen2406@att.net.



If you would like to become part of the prayer team and receive the prayer request emails once or twice a week, please contact the office or Amy Larsen. And of course, you can always call or email the office to have a name added to the prayers on Sunday morning. For confidentiality reasons we only use first names for our prayers on Sunday mornings and in our prayer emails. **Prayer changes things!**



On Wednesday, December 18th, Belle City Brassworks will present “A Christmas Celebration of Music” here in our sanctuary. The concert begins at 7:00 p.m. A free-will offering will be taken during the intermission.

Walking With Those Who Grieve During The Holidays

The holiday season can be difficult for people who are grieving a death or deep loss. As Christians, we do well to be aware that not everyone feels wholehearted joy this time of year. How can we support them?

Grief counselor Alan Wolfelt explains that walking alongside — “companioning” — one who grieves “is not about assessing, analyzing, fixing or resolving another’s grief. Instead, it is about being totally present to the mourner, even being a temporary guardian of [his or] her soul.” Among Wolfelt’s 11 tenets for “companioning the bereaved”:

- It’s about being present to another person’s pain, not taking it away.
- It’s about listening with the heart, not analyzing with the head.
- It’s about walking alongside, not leading.

Sue Shields, Lutheran Family Service counselor in Council Bluffs, has some suggestions.

- Be present often and be available when needed. Even quietly without conversation – can be helpful.
- Acknowledge all their feelings, including those that make you uncomfortable.
- Be pro-active in your willingness to help. Instead of asking if there is anything you can do, look around. If the dishes need to be washed, don’t ask – just wash them.
- Recognize and help to normalize the wide range of grief responses they are going through. It’s helpful to someone who is experiencing strong emotions following a loss to know they aren’t “going crazy” and that they are having a normal reaction to an abnormal situation.
- Remember the goal is not to return to “normal”. The loss of a close loved one changes everything. For now, it needs to be all about them. “Tell me more...,” is a great prompt when you don’t know what to say.

Along with actions and listening, a few kind and encouraging words can make a lasting impact on a grieving friend. The goal is not to make them stop hurting, but to be with them in their pain. You might say:

- “I wish I had the right words; just know I care.”
- “We all need help at times like this, I am here for you.”
- “I am praying that God will surround you with His love during these hard days.”
- “My favorite memory of your loved one is...”

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” Matthew 5:4

December 2024

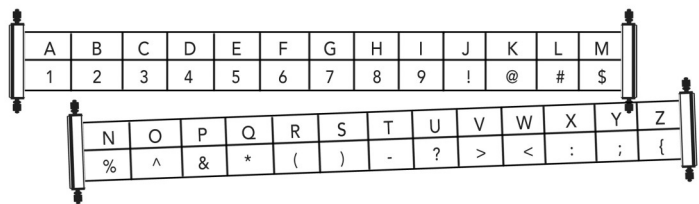
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Setting 8 9:30 Worship	2 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Food Pantry	3	4	5 7:30 Senior Choir	6 12:30 Food Pantry 5:30 Santa's Night Out	7
8 O the Joy 9:30 Worship	9 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Food Pantry	10 1:00 Quilters	11 10:00 Book Club 11:00-1:00 Diaper Ministry	12 10:00 Birthday Club 7:30 Senior Choir	13 9:00 Men's Group 12:30 Food Pantry	14 9:30 Christmas Program Rehearsal
15 9:30 Look For The Light Christmas Program	16 January Chalice Deadline 10:00 Bible Study Brunch 12:30 Food Pantry	17 10:00 Third Tuesday Bible Study	18 7:00 Brassworks Concert @ HCLC	19 7:30 Senior Choir	20 12:30 Food Pantry	21
22 Setting 8 9:30 Worship	23 12:30 Food Pantry	24 4:00 Christmas Eve Worship 10:30 Christmas Eve Worship Office Closed	25 Christmas Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27 No Food Pantry Today Office Closed	28
29 Lessons & Carols 9:30 Worship	30 12:30 Food Pantry Office Closed	31 Office Closed				



CLUES ABOUT CHRISTMAS

The Old Testament contains many details about Jesus' birth. Can you uncover what Isaiah prophesied?

Directions: Use the code to write the letters and complete Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV.



For to us a 3 8 9 # 4 is 2 ^ (%) ^ %

is 7 9 > 5 %, and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful 3 ^ ? %) 5 # ^ ('

\$ 9 7 8 - ; God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the

greatness of his government and & 5 1 3 5 there will be no 5 % 4.

He will reign on David's - 8 (^ % 5 and over his @ 9 % 7 4 ^ \$,

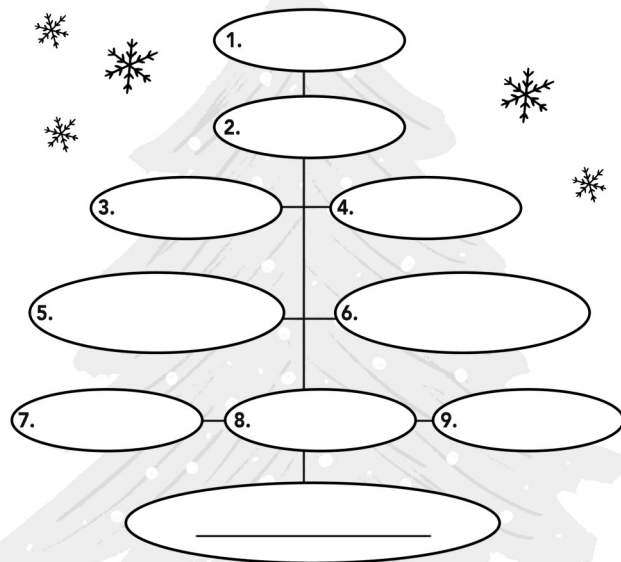
establishing and upholding it with ! ?) - 9 3 5 and righteousness

from that time on and 6 ^ (5 > 5 (. *Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV*

Answers: child, born, son, given, Counselor, Mighty, peace, end, throne, kingdom, justice, forever

Puzzle!

Write the answer to each clue in the correct circle. Then jot down the first letter of each answer and unscramble those letters to form a word about this season. Write that answer at the bottom of the tree.



CLUES

1. You trim this at Christmas.
2. One who governs
3. The first word of a popular carol, it means "Listen!"
4. You burn this to make the air sweet.
5. "For unto us is born this day a _____ ..."
6. She was betrothed to Joseph.
7. Shepherds heard them sing.
8. A Christmas song
9. 'Tis the _____ to be jolly!"

Answers: 1. tree, 2. ruler, 3. hark, 4. incense, 5. Savior, 6. Mary, 7. angels, 8. carol, 9. season, Christmas

Medical Equipment Lending Closet

Did you know we have a lending closet with medical equipment such as canes, walkers, shower chairs, etc. for people to borrow? Often these items are needed only for a short time after an illness or surgery, and they can be costly to purchase. Right now we have crutches, canes, raised toilet seats, shower chairs, walkers, and a wheel chair. You can use the borrowed equipment for as long as it is needed. We only have one or two of some items, so availability does vary. If you or a family member or friend needs an item, call the church office, 632-8802, and we will check to see if we have what you need available. If you have medical equipment you no longer need to use, please consider donating it to our lending closet. Donations can be brought to the church office during the week or to church on Sunday mornings.



"Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus."
—Neal A. Maxwell

December Volunteers

Thank you to the volunteers who help keep worship services running smoothly! If you would like to volunteer, please call the office, 262-632-8802, or talk to one of the pastors.

	Dec. 1 9:30 am	Dec. 8 9:30 am	Dec. 15 9:30 am	Dec. 22 9:30 am	Dec. 24. 4:00 pm	Dec.24 10:30 pm	Dec. 29 9:30 am
Greeter	Sally Neitzel Thom Bodenbach	Lori Neu	Jo Nissen	Marianne Jensen	Sturino Family	Lynn Helmke	Sally Neitzel Thom Bodenbach
Lector	Marianne Jensen	Gary Wod	None Needed	Lynn Sinclair	Danielle Simonovic	Marianne Jensen	None Needed
Communion Assistants	Susan Anderson Gary Wee	Joan Fergus Amy Larsen	None Needed	Bob Larsen Gary Wee	None Needed		None Needed
AV Technicians	Todd Jansen	Kylee Albright	Kylee Albright Barb Salvo	Lynn Helmke	Kylee Albright	Barb Salvo	Todd Jansen
Coffee Fellowship	Rose Adamski	Joellen Childs	None Needed		None Needed	None Needed	Sally Neitzel Joanne Steeves
Council- person In Charge	Joleen Carlson	Gary Wood	Dave Knudson			Laurie Knudson	
Ushers	David Krueger, Steve Barootian, Gary Lequia, Ed Wosilait						
Altar Guild	Susan Barbee, Val Conner, Barb Salvo						

Altar Flowers

December 1 - In memory of Mary Larsen, given by Bob & Karen Larsen

December 8 - In honor of Dane & Cashton Simonovic's birthdays, given by David & Darlene Krueger

December 15 - None needed

December 22 - In honor of her son Jeff's birthday, given by Cindy Myhre.

The Chalice **December, 2024**

The Chalice is a publication of Holy Communion Lutheran Church, a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Join us at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays for in-person or live-streamed worship services. Our live-stream can be found on the HCLC Facebook page and the videos remain online to view later. Please call or email the office if you, or someone you know, would like to be added to our email list to receive the weekly bulletin and hymns.

Contact Information

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 Lisa Lequia, Children's Ministry Director.....sundayschool.hclc@gmail.com
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