



THE CHALICE

A publication of Holy Communion Lutheran Church August, 2026

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August always feels like the hinge of the year...summer still warm around us, yet the first hints of change brushing the edges of our days. It's a month of ripening of gathering, of noticing how small beginnings become surprising blessings. Jesus reminds us that the kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed...tiny, ordinary, almost forgettable...yet capable of becoming a sheltering tree where all kinds of birds find rest. It's like yeast...quiet, hidden, working its way through the whole loaf until everything rises.

August invites us to look for those mustard seed moments in our own congregation...the small kindness that becomes a friendship, the quick conversation that becomes a new idea, the volunteer hour that becomes a ministry, the prayer whispered on a Tuesday becomes strength for someone's Thursday. God's kingdom rarely arrives with fanfare. It grows in the unnoticed corners, in the gentle gestures, in the patient tending of one another.

Here are some of the blessings we're growing together this month...

- **Undie Sunday...**On August 9th, at our annual worship and picnic in the park, we launch a brand new ministry with a simple, joyful purpose: collecting new adult underwear for neighbors in need. It's one of those beautiful mustard seed ideas...small, practical, full of dignity...that grows into real comfort and care for families across Racine. Bring a pack of undies, bring a friend, and bring your hope for a kinder world. Together, we'll plant something good.
- **Youth Gathering Prep...**Our teens are beginning their journey toward the 2027 Youth Gathering, which will held in Minneapolis. Their questions, energy, and curiosity are yeast in our communal life, helping all of us rise.
- **Worship & Music...**Late summer hymns, scripture, and prayer shape us for the season ahead. Even one Sunday's worship can plant something lasting.
- **Neighborhood Picnic & School Supplies Giveaway...**On August 23rd, we'll gather with our neighbors for a joyful afternoon of food, connection, and generosity. As school supplies find their way into the hands of children and youth preparing for a new school year, we get to witness the kingdom growing in real time...one smile, one shared meal, one act of kindness at a time. **It's a chance to meet new faces, strengthen community ties, and bless families with the tools their kids need to begin the year with confidence.**

So my dearest friends in Christ, let us pay attention to the little things for the kingdom grows in the quiet places...in your laughter, in your generosity, in your willingness to show up, in your courage to rest when you need it. Nothing is too small for God to use. Nothing is too ordinary to become holy.

May August be a month of noticing...of seeing how God is already at work in you, in our church, and in our community. May we trust that every seed we plant in love will bear fruit in God's good time.

In God's love and amazing grace,
Pastor Laura

School Supply Drive

Please join us in living out our "Hope on a Hill" mission by being part of our school supplies drive and picnic giveaway that will help our community's school kids have a great school year.

How to help:

Today - August 16) Donate supplies (See lists and "how tos" below)

Sunday, 8/16, after church: - Help pack school supplies for distribution (Youth Room)

Sunday, 8/16, after church: Distribute flyers on doors and cars in the neighborhood

Sunday, 8/23, Set up - 2:30 PM. Picnic and supplies distribution - 4-6 PM. Church and church parking lot:

(Please.note: Those of us who got to participate last year had a BLAST! Please join us this year if you're able. It'll do your heart good!!)

Questions? Specific help you'd like to offer? Please let Kate Potter-Barrow, Pastor Laura or Pastor Mark know

If you want to join in this Hope on a Hill mission, please purchase school supplies (lists below) and 1) bring them to the youth room in the church or 2) order online and send them directly to the church. Supplies not distributed at the picnic will be given to the RUSD Transition program which helps our community's unhoused children.

Church Address for online orders:

Holy Communion Lutheran Church
2000 W. 6th Street,
Racine, WI 53405

Please remember that we need a little more help with the middle and high school lists. Thank you!!!

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Wide ruled spiral notebooks - Red, Green, Yellow, Blue

No. 2 pencils

Pink erasers - pencil tip or regular

Plastic, 3 prong, 2 pocket folders - Red, Green, Yellow, Blue

Crayola Markers - 8 packs. Classic colors preferred.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Pencil pouch

College Ruled spiral notebooks - all colors

3 prong pocket folders, plastic. All colors.

Planner

No. 2 pencils

Crayola Markers - any color groups.

HIGH SCHOOL

College ruled spiral notebooks - all colors.

3 prong pocket folders, plastic. All colors.

Black pens (whole package)

Blue pens (whole package_

No. 2 pencils

Loose leaf paper, **college ruled**.



Tissues for Teachers:

Teachers often provide LOTS of tissues for their students. Since they are also on sale now, we'd like to collect tissues for the teachers of our congregation who spend so much of their own money on their classrooms. Let's help them out!

"The best portion of a good person's life: the little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and love." Wordsworth

Worship in the Park, Undie Sunday, and Church Picnic

Sunday, August 9th 9:30 a.m.

**Pritchard Park, 2800 Ohio St.
Wieczorek Pavilion (same as last year)**

Watch for the signs directing you to the picnic area.

We will provide:

**Pulled pork. hot dogs, buns, plates, cups, napkins, plasticware
water, lemonade, ice and coolers will be on hand. We will have
activities and games for kids. Kids, bring your friends!**

You bring:

**Last name A-L salads or side dishes, Last name M-Z desserts,
lawn chairs and beverages**



**We will be kicking off our new outreach effort,
Undie Sunday, by collecting new, adult size underwear,
socks, and t-shirts for the Hospitality Center. These basics
are often overlooked, but much needed, and will be tangible
reminders of God's love made practical. We will bless the first
donations during worship and celebrate the start of this
new ministry.**

Rain or shine we will gather in the park and rejoice!



The Children's Chalice

Holy Communion Lutheran Church August, 2026



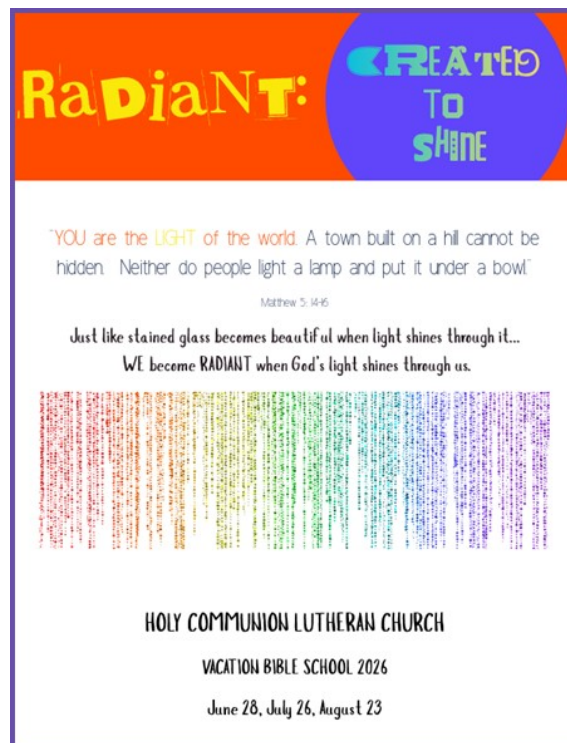
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**\HAPPY BAPTISM BIRTHDAY to the following children
who were baptized during the month of August:
Alaya Buhler Luke Lequia**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**If you missed one or both of the first VBS Sundays,
you are still welcome to join us for
the last VBS Sunday on August 23 rd .**

**The children will begin in church and will be dismissed after the children's sermon.
We will continue in the Youth Room, lounge and OUTSIDE and
participate in a Bible story lesson, crafts, games, treats...
AND THEN...Our time will end with a family lunch.
Please plan to return to pick up your child(ren) at 11:30 and eat with us!**



Please consider bringing a friend! Here is the [LINK](#) for registration!



During the month of August the pantry is asking for donations of tuna, cereal, Jiffy corn muffin mix, cake mixes, and frosting. The pantry can also use clean, lightly used plastic shopping bags, large brown paper bags, and reusable bags for packing the groceries.

The pantry has a very large supply of greeting cards and do not need any at this time! They will take Bibles, children's Bible storybooks, adult inspirational books, 2027 calendars, pens and pencils, and cookbooks.

A big thank you to all the pantry volunteers and donors who make our ministry possible!

Craft Sale Fundraiser for Our Youth

To help the young people attend the 2027 Youth Gathering in Minneapolis next year, let's have a Craft sale!! Nov. 8, 2026. Please donate your crafts of any kind and all proceeds will go to the youth. Soft goods, (table runners, napkins, hand or tote bags), wood items (Christmas trees, welcome signs, shelves), wreaths, paper goods. More info to follow. Questions, contact Linda Godson, ltgyg1020@gmail.com



MEN'S GROUP

Men's Group

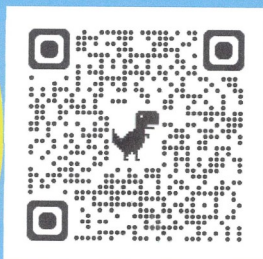
All men are welcomed to join Pastor Mark in the lounge at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, August 7th. (Please note the change of date.) Come have a cup of coffee and join the conversation!

Peyton Larson's 7th Annual Birthday Lemonade Stand for DSAW

This is a fundraising event for the Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin
Saturday, September 19, 2026
11am - 3pm

6015 Finch Lane, Caledonia WI 53402

DSAW provides amazing services for over 5500 individuals with Down Syndrome and their families living in Wisconsin. The funds raised are used to provide job training, classes, events and overall awareness of Down Syndrome. This is our chance to give back; please come out & support this fantastic organization!



Can't make it on the 19th? Scan the QR code to donate to DSAW through Peyton's Awareness Walk Team.

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 and we just got a donations of a scale, a blood pressure cuff, and a small, two step wheelchair ramp. 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, 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.



Ketchup Club

All are welcome to join us for lunch at 11:30 on Tuesday, August 4th at Reefpoint BrewHouse, 2 Christopher Columbus Causeway. These relaxed, casual lunches are a nice way to catch up with old friends and possibly make some new ones! If you know you will be there, contact Pastor Laura, pastorlaura.hclc@gmail.com, or the office, office.hclc@gmail.com so we can get the right size table. If you suddenly find yourself free, please come join us and we'll happily make room for another chair at the table.



Diaper Ministry

Thanks to Kristen Hahner for sponsoring this month's Diaper Depot delivery in memory of Mardell Ferg. The Diaper Ministry continues to grow! We now help an average of 59 clients and give away 1,340 diapers each session. We have served 143 individuals in 2026. Of interest is that more of our recent new clients are adults rather than children!

Our August distribution dates are August 12th from 11AM – 1PM and August 26th from 4 – 6 PM. Contact Kylee Albright kygregg@mac.com or Amy Larsen amylarsen2406@att.net with questions or to volunteer

Third Tuesday Bible Study

August 18th the study of Acts will meet from 10:00 to 11:30 at the home of Julie Burton; 136 Steeplechase Drive. This month the discussion will focus on Acts 16:25 to Acts 17:34 pages 146 to 157 in William Barclay.

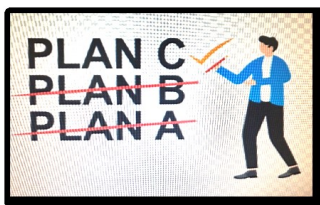
It begins with Paul and Silas in jail praying and singing hymns. A great earthquake occurred and set all the prisoners free. But no one left the prison! The jailer was so stunned he washed their wounds and brought them to his home for a meal.

Paul and Silas then went to Thessalonica where they debated with Jews and won over many Greeks and women. But many of the influential Jews were so angry, that Paul and Silas had to flee the city at night.

Soon Paul went to Athens where he witnessed every day in the city square. Next Paul went to Corinth, a great commercial city but also a very wicked city. Yet here is where Paul was very successful in his witness for Christ.

From prison to a successful ministry!. We can take heart that our witness won't cause such trouble. Meet August 18th from 10:00 to 11:30 at Julie Burton's home

Monday Morning Bible Study - August Fellowship Change of Plans!



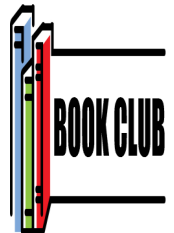
Our previously scheduled **Pool Party** for **Monday, August 17 at 11:30 AM** has been slightly reimagined. Instead of gathering poolside, we'll be trading our swimsuits for sandwiches and meet for a delicious and relaxed **Luncheon at Joey's Yardarm** (920 Erie Street, Racine) on that day and time. Come enjoy laughter, fellowship, and a relaxed meal together as we soak up the last stretch of summer...no sunscreen required.

The Book Club is meeting on Wednesday, August 12th 10:00. We will be discussing The Sideways Life of Denny Voss by Holly Kennedy.

Denny Voss's life in rural Minnesota is a quiet one. He lives with his elderly mother and his Saint Bernard, George. George is blind and deaf. Denny has always felt that he has a good life. How did he wind up being charged with the murder of a mayoral candidate? As Denny awaits trial, his court-appointed therapist walks him through the events of the past year. He has had other scuffles with the law. It seems like whenever Denny tries to do the right thing, chaos ensues. He's always has been surrounded by people who love him, but now it's up to him to set his life on a new course. Can he do it?

We will be meeting at Julie Burton's home, 136 Steeplechase Drive. Everyone is welcomed to join us.

Our book for September 9th is The Lost Apothecary by Sarah Penner.



Hospital Visitation

Please remember to contact the church office if you or a family member is hospitalized, in a nursing home, or becomes home bound. **Due to HIPPA privacy laws, medical facilities cannot release information on their patients, so the church will not know you have been ill.** You can decide if you want to receive a visit or have your name on the prayer list read in church. If you wish, along with the visits we will add your/their name to the mailing list for the newsletters and the wonderful holiday cards from our Sunday School students. If you notice a friend or someone who usually sits near you in church is not attending for a stretch, we would like you to tell us that too, so we can check in with them. You can contact the church office at office.hclc@gmail.com, or 262-632-8802.

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. Look for the lavender prayer request cards coming soon to the pews, lounge, and welcome center. You can write your prayer request on the card and put it in the offering plate, give it to an usher, or bring it to the office.

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!

Finance Update

June Finance Numbers

Revenue: \$ 37,299.40

Expense: \$ 49,547.64

Net Income: \$(18,710.20)

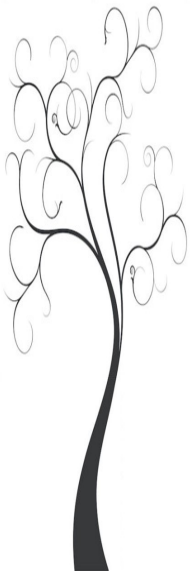
Year to Date Finance Numbers

Revenue: \$295,220.98

Expense: \$322,393.16

Income: \$ (27,172.18)

LOUNGE MURAL: Tree of Members



In our lounge, a large tree mural has been painted on the east wall connecting to the sanctuary. We hope to fill this tree with leaves of our Holy Communion family - current and past members. Help us fill the tree by making a \$10 donation per leaf. The leaves will be placed on the tree blowing towards the sanctuary where we all worship together.

For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them. Matthew 18:20

LOUNGE MURAL: Tree of Members

I would like ____ leaves at \$10 each for a total of \$____.

Member(s)/family name to be placed on the leaf (please print):

Your Name: _____

Phone/Email _____

Please make checks payable to HCLC and note "Lounge Tree Mural" in the memo line. Return this form to the church office or place it in the offering plate with your check.

August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 2:30 Bill Dieckhoff Voice Recital
2 <i>Setting 4</i> 9:30 Worship	3 12:30 Food Pantry	4 11:30 Ketchup Club @ Reefpoint Brew House	5	6	7 9:00 Men's Group 12:30 Food Pantry	8
9 <i>O the Joy</i> 9:30 Worship in the Park Church Picnic	10 12:30 Food Pantry	11 1:00 Quilters	12 10:00 Book Club 11: 00 Diaper Ministry 6:00 Finance Team	13 10:00 Birthday Club	14 12:30 Food Pantry	15
16 <i>Setting 10</i> 9:30 Worship	17 11:30 Bible Study Lunch At Joey's Yardaarm 12:30 Food Pantry	18 10:00 Third Tuesday Bible Study	19	20	21 12:30 Food Pantry	22
23 <i>We Are Called</i> 9:30 Worship / Vacation Bible School School Supply Giveaway Picnic	24 12:30 Food Pantry	25 1:00 Quilters	26 4:00 Diaper Ministry	27	28 12:30 Food Pantry	29
30 <i>Service of Word & Prayer</i> 9:30 Worship	31 12:30 Food Pantry					

Puzzle!



Use the Scripture verses below to locate the places in the puzzle. (If a verse mentions more than one place, only one appears in the puzzle, so choose carefully.) Circle each place as you find it.
Answers go: → ↓ ↘

Genesis 2:15	Isaiah 23:1	Luke 24:13
Genesis 11:9	Isaiah 23:2	John 2:1
Genesis 35:1	Isaiah 23:3	Acts 8:5
Exodus 13:18	Jonah 1:2	Acts 11:22
Ruth 1:1	Matthew 3:6	Acts 17:16
1 Kings 18:19	Matthew 4:18	Romans 1:15
1 Chronicles 11:4	Matthew 26:36	

S I D O N G N I L E S O
 J J O R D A N R I V E R
 E S G A A R C A N A A M
 R A E T B D C D B E O O
 U M T H B E T H E L F U
 S A H E T N E A T N G N
 A R S N Y O M N H I A T
 L I E S R F M T L N L C
 E A M D E E A I E E I A
 M F A R S D U O H V L R
 G H N O A E S C E E E M
 I J E M B N A H M H E E
 T O W E R O F B A B E L

Answers: Garden of Eden, Tower of Babel, Bethel, Red Sea, Bethlehem, Mount Carmel, Jerusalem, Tyre, Sidon, Nile, Nineveh, Jordan River, Sea of Galilee, Gethsemane, Emmaus, Cana, Samaria, Antioch, Athens, Rome

PUZZLE



Footsteps with God

Have you ever walked along the shore and noticed footprints in the sand? The poem *Footprints in the Sand* reminds us that God is always with us.

Unscramble each word and write it inside the footprints to see what Psalm 119:133 (NIV) says about our steps. (Hint: the bold letters show the first letter of each word.)



reDcti



ym



efoopstst



cgc dianro



ot



oryu



dowlr



elt



on



nsi



lreu



rvoe



em.

Psalm 119:133 (NIV)

Answer: "Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me."



SUNFLOWER

The sunflower, a symbol of faithfulness and devotion, represents a life turned toward God. Just as the flower follows the sun, believers are called to seek the light of Christ and remain focused on Him.

Its bright bloom reflects the joy and glory of God's presence, while its steady growth points to a life rooted in faith. The many seeds of the sunflower can also symbolize spiritual fruitfulness.

In Christian symbolism, the sunflower reminds us to remain steadfast, to seek God daily and to reflect His light in all we do.

August 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.

	August 2 9:30 a.m.	August 9 9:30 a.m.	August 16 9:30 a.m.	August 23 9:30 a.m.	August 30 9:30 a.m.
Greeter	Kay Krause	Church Picnic	Lori Neu		Sally Neitzel
Lector	Linda Godson	Roger Degerman	Gary Wee	Marianne Jensen	
Communion Assistants	Linda Godson	Roger Degerman			
AV Technicians	Todd Jansen	Kylee Albright	Kathy Berg	Kylee Albright	Kylee Albright
Coffee Fellowship	Mason Family	Church Picnic			
Councilperson In Charge	Laurie Knudson	Church Picnic	Polly Timmerman	David Knudson	Rebecca Mason
Ushers	Dave Barlament, Jim Buhler, Tim Krikau, Gary Wee				
Altar Guild	Susan Barbee, Val Conner				

August Altar Flowers

August 2 - In loving memory of Katharine Jensen given by Marianne Jensen
and given by Carl & Shelley Lussmyer in honor and celebration of their anniversary.

August 9 - Church picnic, no flowers

August 16 - In loving memory of Ron Eckhardt on his 93rd birthday, given by Jo Nissen & Diane Petras

August 23 - In loving memory of Tom Rolfson, given by Cathie Rolfson & Lynn & Chris Litzau

August 30 - in honor of Mya's baptism and in memory of her godmother, Jacque Nielsen,
and in honor of Jace and Luke Lequia's baptisms, given with love by Lisa Lequia

The Chalice **August, 2026**

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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