

In This Issue

Hanging of the Greens.....	2
Christmas Caroling.....	2
Children's Chalice.....	3
Christmas Program.....	4
New Members.....	5
Advent & Christmas Worship....	5
Book Club.....	6
Third Tuesday Bible Study.....	6
Cancer Support Group.....	6
Quilting Group.....	6
2022 Giving Tree.....	7
RIC Annual Banquet.....	7
Food Pantry News.....	7
Finance Update.....	7
December Calendar.....	8
Altar Flowers.....	8
Puzzle Page.....	9
December Volunteers.....	10
December Altar Flowers.....	10



2022

THE ORIGINS OF THANKSGIVING

While I knew that Abraham Lincoln is credited with establishing Thanksgiving Day as a national holiday, I didn't know that it had previously been the custom of presidents and governors to declare a day of 'thanksgiving' on a semi-regular basis. By that I mean that politicians had been doing this for some time... but not according to a set date on the calendar. So in addition to the thanksgiving celebration of the Pilgrims and the Indians that we know so well... George Washington twice declared days of national thanksgiving in 1789 and 1795. John Adams and James Madison did the same on several occasions as well.

While often these days of thanksgiving were declared to celebrate a successful harvest, they were also used to give thanks to other events – like the conclusion of a war or the drafting of the 1st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

These declarations were intended as reminders of the blessings that this country and its citizens enjoyed as gifts from God. Gifts that were easy to take for granted. Perhaps one way to avoid that this year... is to observe Thanksgiving by literally counting our blessings. By making a list... by writing them down... and by giving thanks to God for them.

So here goes...

Thank You God... for the gift of the good people of this congregation.

Thank You God... for the gift of our leaders and our amazing musicians.

Thank You God... for the gift of our children's teachers and coaches and mentors.

Thank You God... for the gifts of faith and gratitude...

Thank You God... for everything... HAPPY THANKSGIVING DEAR FRIENDS...

Pastor Mark



Hanging of the Greens

(AKA Decorating the Sanctuary)

Friday, December 2nd, 2022 at 5:30 pm

Come one, come all! Come old, come young! Many hands make light work!

If you have ever wanted to wrangle a very tall tree, hang ornaments, fluff farland, or see how we get that big wreath up on the very high Rood beam, please join us on Friday night, December 2nd at 5:30 pm to help decorate the sanctuary!

You don't have to be a ladder climber (although we could use a couple of folks). There are tasks that everyone, at any skill level, can help with.

Pizza and soda will be provided.

Come join the fun!



Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 18th

Sunday, December 18th - immediately following our worship service - we are going to be caroling. Anyone in the congregation is welcome to join members of the senior choir in bringing some added joy to some of our shut-ins. If you are able to be part of this, please plan on remaining in the sanctuary after worship that morning.



The Children's Chalice



Holy Communion Lutheran Church December, 2022

HAPPY BAPTISM BIRTHDAY to the following children
who were baptized during the month of December:

Giulia Ferrentino
Stella Jensen

Jameson Palmgren
Graham Pfarr

SANTA'S NIGHT OUT will be on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9th from 5:30 – 8:30pm.

Families with children ages 3 years old through 5th grade are invited. 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 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 5th.

The CHRISTMAS PROGRAM will be on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11th 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 Mark Hurn Room after the Christmas Program. Cookies may be dropped off in the church during the final rehearsal on Saturday, December 10th between 9am-10:30am. (Please place them in the last pew.) Otherwise, please bring your cookies to the kitchen before the service on Sunday, December 11th.

If you have any questions, contact Lisa at sundayschool.hclc@gmail.com.

THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON...

December 18th, December 25th or January 1st.

SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL RESUME ON JANUARY 8th.

Have a very



Look For The Light

December 11, 9:30 A.M.

Holy Communion Lutheran Church

Look For the Light, HCLC's beloved Christmas program with a live nativity, is returning to our beautiful sanctuary on December 11th at 9:30 A.M. The animals, including our favorite donkey, Tina, are excited to return to see and hear the story of Jesus' birth. Because it has been a couple of years since the kids have presented this program, because I'm adding new music, and because we are still rebuilding our numbers, I would like to invite any adults who'd like to participate in the program to join us as well. Whole families, folks who love to sing or read but don't have a huge time commitment, anyone who has ever wanted to hold onto an errant sheep, goat, or llama, anyone longing to wear one of our dashing shepherd costumes, those of you who have been yearning to tell this story - are all welcome!

Christmas program special rehearsals will take place during regular church and Sunday School hours on December 4. A final rehearsal will take place on Saturday, December 10, from 9:00 to 10:30 A.M. Hope to see you at rehearsals as we prepare to tell the best story ever written.

We need people to help set up the sanctuary for Look for the Light on Saturday, December 10th, starting at 8 A.M. We need some strong folks who can move the wooden platforms from the choir room to the sanctuary, plus we need folks who can tape down the plastic and spread the hay. We will also need help putting the sanctuary back to rights after the program on Sunday.

Kate

262.498.7593 (texting is the best way to get in touch with me)

kpotterbarrow@gmail.com



New Members

On Sunday, November 27th we welcomed thirteen new members to our HCLC family.

Rose & John Adamski

Chuck & Noreen Fladten

David Fladten

Dorothy Fladten

David Hansen

Karen & Bob Larsen

Amy Sturino

Elsie Trehus

Matthew & Kaytie Wolf

You can learn more about a couple of them below. Watch for more "Meet the new members" articles in upcoming Chalices and be sure to say hello when you see them in worship!

Meet Our New Members

Rose & John Adamski

Rose and John are both retired. John was a carpenter and Rose was a dietician. They have one daughter and two grandsons Eli is four and a half years old and Grant is 11 months.

They enjoy the worship at Holy Communion, especially the music and the changing services.

Matt & Kaytie Wolf

Matt and Kaytie both grew up in the Christian faith and they are excited to join the kind and welcoming congregation of Holy Communion. They were married here in November of 2021.

Kaytie is a teacher at Julian Thomas Elementary and Matt is a pilot out of Milwaukee.

Welcome Rose, John, Kaytie, and Matt!



Please join us for Advent and Christmas worship services

December 4th 9:30 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent

December 11th 9:30 a.m.

Look for the Light Christmas Program
Come hear the story of Jesus' birth
as our children and youth and the animals
of the stable turn our sanctuary into a
manger in Bethlehem.

December 18th 9:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24th 4:00 p.m.

Family Christmas Eve worship

December 24th 10:30 p.m.

Candlelight Christmas Eve worship

Sunday, December 25th 9:30 a.m.

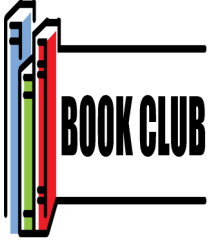
Christmas Day worship

Sunday, January 1st 9:30 a.m.

A service of lessons and carols

You can join us for worship in the sanctuary or
via livestream on the HCLC Facebook page.
The videos remain on the page for viewing at
a later date.





We have decided we are going on an adventure. For December, we will be discussing The Awakening by Kate Chopin. When it was first published in 1899, it shock readers with its honest look at the treatment of female infidelity. Audiences accustomed to the pieties of late Victorian romantic fiction were taken aback by the daring portrayal of a woman trapped in a stifling marriage. She looks outside her marriage to find another love. Few novels have looked this deeply into the psychology of a woman involved in an illicit relationship.

We also plan to discuss The Giver by Lois Lowry. Racine Theatre Guild presented this play in April 2015 as an outreach to middle school students. Everything is under control. Everything is the same. There is no war, fear, or pain. There are no choices. Jonas has been chosen to become the next receiver of all the Giver holds. He holds the memories of the true pain and pleasures of life. When Jonas learns the truth, he is not so sure he wants to commit to be the Receiver. This book is the winner of the Newberry Award for children's literature.

Both of these books are/have been banned at some point in their history. We will be meeting December 14th at 10:00 at Julie Burton's home. She resides at 136 Steeplechase Dr, Racine. We are inviting you to join us for discussing either or both of the books, if they are of interest to you.

For January 11, 2023 (!), we are planning on reading The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition by Caroline Alexander.

Third Tuesday Bible Study

December 20th will be the date for the study of the Gospel of Mark. We begin on page 91 with "The Sin For Which There Is No Forgiveness." Wow! Barclay got our attention there. His clarification: "they are conscious of no sin; they cannot repent and therefore they can never be forgiven" (page 93).

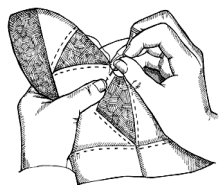
Right after that, the next section is positive: "The Conditions Of Kinship" (page 93). "True kinship lies in a common experience" (page 94). Here we learn the importance of belonging to a worshipping group that strengthens our faith. It's a call to be active in a congregation of believers.

"Teaching In Parables" (page 96) reminds us of the strength in storytelling. "It compels people to think for themselves" (page 100). Using parables, Jesus showed how the ordinary things of life made it "possible to see God"(page 102).

Meet at Julie Burton's home on Tuesday December 20th to discuss pages 91 to 104. Meet at 136 Steeplechase Drive from 10:00 to 11:30. See you then.

Circle of Hope Cancer Support

Our next gathering will be Thursday, December 15 at 10:00 a.m. in the lounge. You do not have to be a member of church so please come and join us. Anyone who has had cancer, had a family member or a friend with cancer, or has been a caregiver for someone with cancer is encouraged to come and share. Sometimes it really helps to talk with others who have experienced similar things. If you have any questions or suggestions for speakers or topics, please call Pat Barlament at 262-902-2808. See you then.



QUILTING GROUP

Quilting Group

The Quilting Group meets at 1:00 pm on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month to work on quilts for Lutheran World Relief. All are welcome to join them, even if you have no prior quilting experience, and they would love to have more help. If you have gently used full, queen or king size flat sheets that you no longer need, the quilters can use them for quilt backs. You can drop them off in the back of the church on Sunday morning or in the church office.

Call Linda Holmquist, 633-0032, or Evelyn Lajiness, 634-0527, if you have any questions.



2022 Giving Tree

In our Seven Acts of Mercy theme this year of Welcoming the Lonely, our tree will be sponsored for the Hospitality Center in downtown Racine. The Hospitality Center provides breakfast and lunch, a monthly laundry program, daily morning prayer, support groups, a safe and welcoming environment, and more for some of our most vulnerable neighbors.

Look for the ornaments on the tree in the narthex when you come into church. Each ornament has a tag on it with a suggested gift amount ranging from \$5.00 to \$90.00. Send a check with your gift to the Hospitality Center using one of the preaddressed envelopes by the tree. Then you can take the ornament home to add to your Christmas tree!

Save the Date
Racine Interfaith Coalition
Annual Banquet
4 PM | DECEMBER 11 | \$60
Preservation Hall
740 Lake Ave. Racine, WI 53403
Racine Interfaith Coalition is committed to building a community that is more just, equitable, and fair. Show your support by purchasing a ticket online or sending a check to the RIC office.
Online tickets: ricracine.org/annual-banquet-2022

A big thank you to all who donated Thanksgiving food items! We received a record number (22) of turkey donations this year. The food pantry volunteers served a lot of families in the two days before Thanksgiving!

For December the pantry is asking for donations of the following items:

- 1 lb. egg noodles
- pork & beans
- cereal
- protein snack bars
- regular size jars of peanut butter



The pantry has not been receiving much food from the Racine County Food Bank or from the government, and the pantry's shoppers are even having a hard time buying many things that we need because of limited supplies at some of the grocery stores. so we are incredibly grateful to all who add a few items for the pantry to their shopping carts. We know budgets are tight for many people and we give thanks for your generous gifts to our ministry.

We always need brown paper grocery bags and clean, lightly used, plastic shopping bags. If you receive calendars, greeting cards, or pens and pencils you will not use, please bring them to the pantry. We have also had requests for Bibles. If you have any Bibles you no longer use you can donate them to the pantry.

As always we are very grateful to all who contribute money and food and those who volunteer their time. We could not continue this ministry without you!

Finance Update

October

Revenue: \$31,434.97
Expenses: \$41,830.67
Net Income: (\$10,395.70)

Year to Date

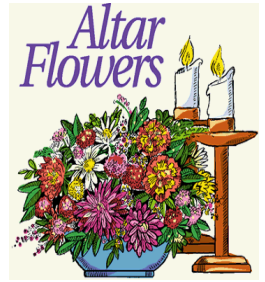
Revenue: \$386,490.75
Expenses: \$448,934.22
Net Income: (\$62,443.47)

December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:15 Bell Choir 7:30 Senior Choir	2 1:00 Food Pantry 5:30 Hanging the Greens	3
4 O the Joy 9:30 Worship and Sunday School	5 10:00 Bible Study 1:00 Food Pantry	6	7	8 6:15 Bell Choir 7:30 Senior Choir	9 1:00 Food Pantry 5:30 Santa's Night Out	10 8:00 Christmas Program Set Up 9:00 Christmas Program Rehearsal
11 9:30 Look For The Light Christmas Program	12 10:00 Bible Study 1:00 Food Pantry	13 1:00 Quilters	14 10:00 Book Club	15 9:00 Cancer Support Group 6:15 Bell Choir 7:30 Senior Choir	16 1:00 Food Pantry	17
18 We Are Called 9:30 Worship 10:30 Christmas Caroling	19 10:00 Bible Study Brunch 1:00 Food Pantry	20 10:00 Third Tuesday Bible Study	21	22 6:15 Bell Choir 7:30 Senior Choir	23 1:00 Food Pantry	24 4:00 Family Worship 10:30 Candlelight Worship
25 9:30 Worship	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28 Office Closed	29 Office Closed	30 Office Closed 1:00 Food Pantry	31

Altar Flowers

We have **LOTS** of dates still available for altar flowers! Each vase is \$25.00 and if you wish you can pick the flowers up after the service. Right now we have no one signed up for January 15, 22, and 29, February 5, 12, and 26, March 5, 12, 19, and 26, April 2, May 7, 14, and 28, June 25, July 2 and 30, August 20 and 27, September 10 and 17, October 22, November 5, 12, and 26, and December 24.



You can sign up in the church office or look for the Altar Flower binder in the back of the sanctuary on Sunday morning, or you can mail in this form.

Given in honor/memory of _____

Given by _____

Preferred Date _____



Seeking the story
Angels joyfully announced a special arrival in Bethlehem at Christmas.

Directions: Find the words listed below. Then unscramble the intersecting letters to complete Luke 2:11, NIV.



WORD BANK

Shepherds
Child
Nazareth
Census
Baby
David
Mary
Travel
Town
Register
Born
Night

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

"Today in the town of David a _____
has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."

LUKE 2:11, NIV

Answer: Savior

Puzzle!

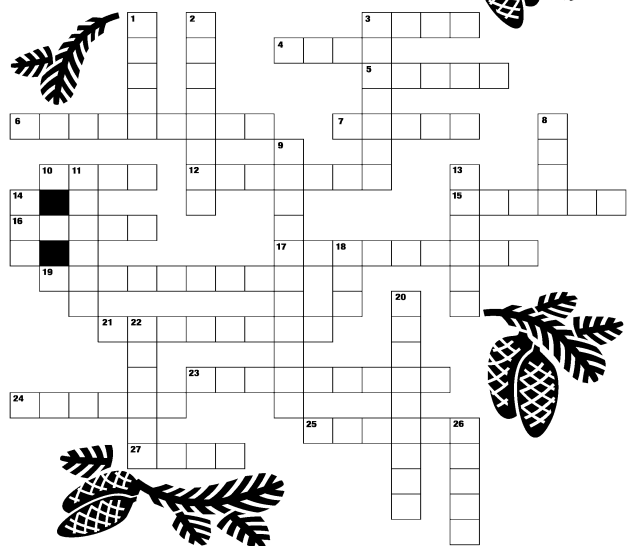
Take a break from Christmas preparations
to complete this seasonal crossword.

DOWN

1. song
2. keeper of sheep
3. Anointed One
8. a gift of the magi
9. red plants
11. coming
13. Jesus
14. 12th month (abbrev.)
18. B&B
20. a form of holly
22. heavenly messengers
26. he ordered the slaughter of the innocents

ACROSS

3. wise men
4. author of the most famous Christmas account
5. red-suited gift-giver
6. of Ephrathah
7. presents
10. Gabriel came to her
12. has a red nose
15. "Messiah" composer
16. northern little helpers
17. patron saint of children
19. made flesh
21. home for Mary
23. tree decorations
24. crib
25. he was a carpenter
27. a nova



Answer: DOWN 1. carol, 2. shepherd, 3. Messiah, 8. gold, 9. poinsettias, 11. Advent, 13. Christ, 14. dec, 18. inn, 20. mistletoe, 22. angels, 26. Herod, ACROSS 3. magi, 4. Luke, 5. Santa, 6. Bethlehem, 7. gifts, 10. Mary, 12. Rudolph, 15. Handel, 16. elves, 17. Saint Nick, 19. incarnate, 21. Nazareth, 23. ornaments, 24. manger, 25. Joseph, 27. star

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. 4 9:30am	Dec. 11 9:30am	Dec. 18 9:30am	Dec. 24 4pm	Dec. 24 10:30pm	Dec. 25 9:30am
Greeter	Lori Neu	Roger Degerman			Joan & Kevin Watson and Kathy Cuccio	Lori Neu
Lector	Roger Degerman	None needed	Steve Smith	Patrick BeBow	Joleen Carlson	Jim Black
Communion Assistant	Lynn Helmke Mary Beth Huizinga	None needed	Linda Godson Steve Smith	None needed	Jean Veltman Megan Veltman	Steve Smith Jim Black
AV Technicians	Todd Jansen Barb Salvo	Kylee Albright Barb Salvo	Lynn Helmke Barb Salvo	Barb Salvo	Barb Salvo	Barb Salvo
Coffee Fellowship	Shelley Lussmyer	None needed	Jim Black	None needed	None needed	None needed
Councilperson In Charge	Lynn Helmke	JoAnne Jaeck	Kylee Albright	Laurie Knudson	Jim Black	Jim Black
Ushers	Dave Krueger, Steve Barootian, Phil Hermann, Gary Lequia, John Schultz, Ed Wosilait					
Altar Guild	Susan Barbee, Val Conner, Barb Salvo					

December Altar Flowers

December 4 - In honor of Naomi Hahner given by Kristin Hahner and

In honor and celebration of her granddaughter Isadora Torres' 11th birthday given by Lori Neu

December 11 - Christmas program, no flowers

December 18 - In honor of Dane and Cashton Simonovic's December birthdays given by Darlene and Dave Krueger

December 25 - no flowers

The Chalice December, 2022

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.

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