

In This Issue

Food Pantry Ness.....2
 Help Decorate the Sanctuary.....2
 Worship Services in December....2
 Children’s Chalice.....3
 Look For The Light.....4
 Sweet Melody Strings Concert....4
 Finance Update.....4
 Ketchup Club.....5
 Men’s Group.....5
 December Birthday Club.....5
 Book Club.....5
 Diaper Ministry Christmas
 Party Help Needed.....5
 Diaper Ministry.....5
 Third Tuesday Bible Study.....6
 Prayer Team.....6
 Hospital and Homebound Visits...6
 Giving With Tithely.....6
 December Calendar.....7
 Puzzle Page.....’.....8
 2026 Altar Flowers.....9
 Coats & Blankets For the
 Hospitality Center.....9
 Medical Equipment Closet.....9
 December Volunteers.....10
 December Altar Flowers.....10



The Season of Advent...is a time of expectant waiting, knowing fully the amazing gift God is about to deliver and yet, at the same time, a period of slowing down to savor the season. It’s an opportunity to set aside special moments to fully experience the joy and the miracle of Christmas, to focus on Christ’s birth in the midst of the chaos that often covers our holiday to-do lists.

Advent is both a wonderful and challenging season. We begin a new church year while the world is busy finishing a calendar year...and the month is filled with shopping and parties beyond what our energy and time can sometimes handle. But while society urges us to hurry and spend, scripture and tradition beckon us to slow down and wait.

My dearest friends in Christ, Advent is a chance for us to carve out time to commemorate the coming of Christ into the world. It’s embracing a Psalm 46:10 lifestyle for a few weeks each year...“Be still and know I am God.” Be still. Wait. Savor. Gather. Invite...that’s what Advent is all about.

Instead of sprinting toward Christmas morning, Advent invites us to breathe deeply and appreciate the anticipation of Christ’s birth. But sometimes we wonder...how are we to do it? How do we add just one more thing to our sometimes already overwhelmed and overbooked holiday schedules? Maybe it’s best to not think of it as adding one more thing...Advent is about making space for the best thing, so our hearts have room for Jesus as Christmas arrives. This Advent, may you celebrate with expectant hearts, savoring the season as we look forward with excitement to receiving the greatest gift God has ever given His children.

A Blessed Advent and Christmas to you all,
 Pastor Laura





Many thanks to all who provided food and monetary assistance to the pantry in November. For December the pantry is asking for donations of 15 oz.. pork & beans, 10 Oz. cans of tomato soup, average size boxes of cereal, 1 lb. pkgs. of egg noodles, macaroni & cheese, and jelly. We can also use clean, lightly used plastic shopping bags, large brown paper bags, 2026 calendars, cookbooks, greeting cards, and pens and pencils.

We are still in need of a pantry assistant. If you know someone who might be interested, please contact Gregg Albright at kygregg@mac.com.

Thank you for all you do for the pantry. We could not continue this ministry without your help!



PLEASE HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS!

The worship committee would appreciate helping hands of all ages to join in decorating Holy Communion for the Christmas holiday. It's always fun - and deeply appreciated - and we will bring treats to show our gratitude!!

When: Saturday, December 6th

Time: 9:00 A.M.

Where: Meet in the sanctuary

Tasks: Decorating the Sanctuary, Narthex, Lounge, and Welcome Center

Note: Supervised kids are welcome. Last year, with the guidance of a mama, they decorated the Welcome Center tree by themselves and helped with the lounge decorations. Yay, youngins'!!!!



Worship Services in December

Sunday, December 7 - 9:30 a.m.

The Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 14 - 9:30 a.m.

Look For The Light Christmas Program

Sunday, December 21 - 9:30 a.m.

The Third Sunday of Advent

Wednesday, December 24 - 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve worship

Wednesday, December 24 - 10:30 p.m.

Candlelight Christmas Eve worship

Sunday, December 28 - 9:30 a.m.

A Service of Lessons and Carols



The Children's Chalice

Holy Communion Lutheran Church December, 2025



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 5th from 5:30 – 8:00pm.

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 movie "**HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS**". 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 2nd.

The CHRISTMAS PROGRAM will be on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14th 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 13th 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 14th. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa at sundayschool.hclc@gmail.com.

THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON...

December 21st December 28th and January 4th

SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL RESUME ON JANUARY 11th.

HAVE A VERY...



Look For The Light

**December 14th, 2025 at 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 14th 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.

KID AND ADULT MUSIC REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Kids will rehearse onn Sunday, December 7. Kids will go to the choir room after the Children's Sermon and remain there until Sunday School time. Pastor Mark and Pastor Laura will give the kids communion after the service before the kids go to Sunday School.

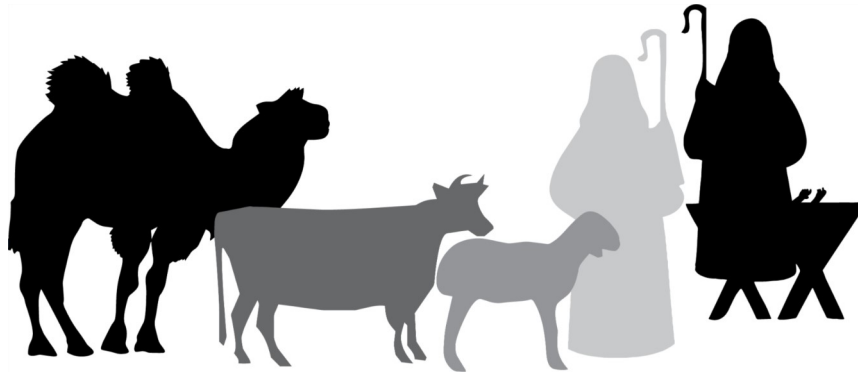
Adults who would like to join in the singing are welcome to come to the kids' rehearsals that take place during church, or after church on **December 7.**

We also dedicate one Thursday evening choir rehearsal to the Xmas program and non-choir adults are welcome to join us. This will likely be on 12/11 at 7:30 P.M.

A final rehearsal will take place on Saturday, December 13, from 9 to 10:30 A.M.

Hope to see you at rehearsals as we prepare to tell the best story ever told!

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



Sweet Melody Strings Christmas Concert



*Sounds
of the
Season*

Join us in the sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, December 22 for a Christmas program by Sweet Melody Strings. Members of the group include HCLC members Rondi Jenkins, Elaine Lewis, and Evie Belland.

Enjoy the beautiful sounds of hammered dulcimers, guitars and bass ukulele.

All are welcome to enjoy the some wonderful holiday music at this free program!

Finance Update

October Finance Numbers

Revenue: \$37,103.98
Expense: \$47,516.95
Net Income: (\$10,412.97)

Year to Date Finance Numbers

Revenue: \$449,794.32
Expense: \$488,064.72
Net Income: (\$38,270.40)

Ketchup Club

Please plan to join us on December 2nd at 11:30 for lunch at Kouzena 220, at 220 6th St. These lunches are casual get-togethers and a wonderful way to “catch up” with old friends and make some new ones. If you know you will be there, please email pastorlaura.hclc@gmail.com, or office.hclc@gmail.com, or call 262-632-8802. This helps us reserve the correct size table. If you suddenly find yourself free that day we will happily make room for you, so please come and join the fun!



MEN'S GROUP

Men's Group

All men are invited to join Pastor Mark in the lounge at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, December 12th. The group meets once a month for fellowship and friendly discussion and they would be happy to have more men join them. If you have any questions you can contact Pastor Mark. All are welcome!

December Birthday Club

Were you born in December? If you were, please join Pastor Mark and Pastor Laura in the lounge on Thursday, December 11th at 10:00 to enjoy a special birthday song, a tasty birthday donut and celebrate with us! Hope to see you there!



Our last meeting of 2025 will be December 10th from 10 - 11:30. We will be discussing Next Year in Havana by Chanel Cleeton. Our meeting is planned to be at Julie Burton's home. It is at 136 Steeplechase Drive.

After the death of her beloved grandmother, Marisol, a Cuban-American travels to Havana and unearths a family secret hidden since the revolution. The secret has its beginnings in 1958, when 19 year old Elisa embarks on a clandestine affair with a passionate revolutionary. The story then jumps ahead to 2017. We meet Marisol who is requested to fulfill Elisa's last wish, to have her ashes scattered in the country of her birth. Marisol is off to Havana. She'll need the lessons of her grandmother's past to help her understand the true meaning of courage and what it means to be Cuban.

You can join us for our always lively discussion. Please call or email Julie to let her know you will be coming. You can reach her at 262-639-5914 or jaburton5914@gmail.com.

For our first book of 2026, we will be discussing My Friends by Fredrik Backman.

Diaper Ministry Christmas Party

Diaper Ministry Christmas Party Gifts: If you took a tag for the Diaper Ministry Christmas Party, please return your gift to the office by Wednesday, December 3rd at the latest. Thank you to everyone who helped purchase a gift.

Diaper Ministry Christmas Party Volunteer Sign-up:

Please use this link to sign up to help at the Diaper Ministry Christmas Party on Sunday, December 7th from 1:00-3:00. <https://bit.ly/4pwtmVW>

Any questions, please call/text 262-331-4534 or email kaitanth3303@yahoo.com.



Diaper Ministry

We give thanks for the Funk family who continue to sponsor the December Diaper Depot delivery in memory of Wayne & Jan Sotona. Thank you!

Our distribution date in December is December 10 from 11:00 - 1:00.

Please consider supporting our ministry with a donation or as a volunteer. Contact Kylee Albright kygregg@mac.com or Amy Larsen amylarsen2406@att.net.





Third Tuesday Bible Study

Tuesday, December 16th, we continue our study of Acts using the study guide by William Barclay. We begin with Acts 6:1-7 "The First Office-Bearers" on page 57. Every Friday these Christian Jews collected alms and food for the needy. There were the Jews from Jerusalem who spoke Hebrew and those from other countries who spoke Greek. When it was evident that Hebrew Jews were being favored, a group of seven were appointed to solve this problem. Stephen spoke up not just for food distribution but also claimed that Christianity was for all people, not just for the Jews (6:8-15). In his defense, Stephen reminded them of their Jewish history where Jews had persecuted their leaders who were chosen by God (page 61). Chapter 7:1-53 is Stephen's recounting that history from Abraham to Joseph and Moses. Quite dramatically, Stephen tells them that Jews have limited God and "worshipped the Temple" (page 69). Like a climax to his testimony, Stephen reminds them that they persecuted the prophets and murdered God's own son (page 70). In our day, we don't crucify preachers that misrepresent the gospel. But we are called upon to keep learning the gospel for our own guide to the truth. That's why we meet monthly to grow in our understanding of the faith. Tuesday at 10:00 we meet at the home of Julie Burton (136 Steeplechase Drive). See you then.



Calling young and old and everyone in between to join us on **Sunday, December 21st** to go Christmas Caroling. We'll gather together immediately following worship and carpool to our beloved homebound members. Please see the sign up on Pastor Laura's door.

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!



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.

Giving With Tithely

Many of our members have decided giving through tithely.ly is a simple way to stay up to date with their pledges or to make special offerings. This QR code will take you to the Tithely web page where you can make a donation to HCLC with your credit card or bank account. You can choose a one-time donation or recurring donations, whether you pay by credit card or from your checking or savings account, and if your donation should go to the general fund, the food pantry, or another fund. If you need help, you can contact Keri in the office.



December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Food Pantry	2 11:00 Ketchup Club	3	4	5 12:30 Food Pantry 5:30 Santa's Night Out	6 9:00 Christmas Decorating
7 Setting 4 9:30 Worship/ Sunday School 1:00 Diaper Ministry Party	8 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Food Pantry	9 1:00 Quilters	10 10:00 Book Club 11-1 Diaper Ministry	11 10:00 Birthday Club	12 9:00 Men's Group 12:30 Food Pantry	13 9:00 Christmas Program Rehearsal
14 9:30 Look For The Light Christmas Program	15 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Food Pantry	16 10:00 Third Tues. Bible Study	17 7:00 Belle City Brassworks Concert	18	19 12:30 Food Pantry	20
21 O the Joy 9:30 Worship 10:30 Caroling	22 10:00 Sweet Melodies Concert 12:30 Food Pantry	23	24 Office Closed 4:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	25 Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27
28 Lessons & Carols 9:30 Worship	29 12:30 Food Pantry	30	31			

PUZZLE

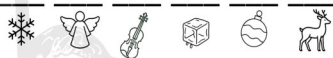


GOOD NEWS TO THE SHEPHERDS

What did the angel of the Lord say to the shepherds?

Directions: Write the first letter of each picture on the lines.

“



”

Luke 2:11, NIV

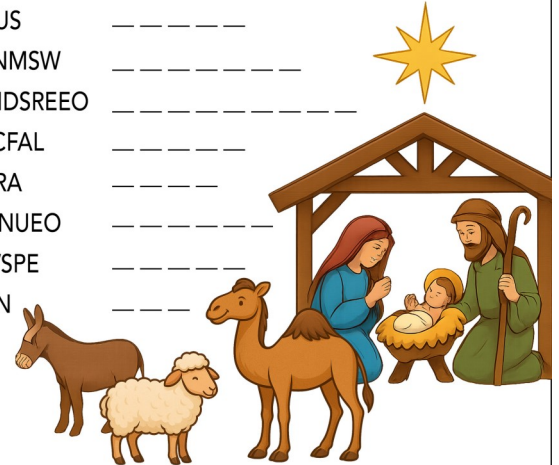
Answers: “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you.” Luke 2:11, NIV

Puzzle!

The Christmas Story

Unscramble each set of letters to form a word from the Christmas story. One letter in each set doesn't belong. Write each extra letter below, on the line above the correct number. Then answer the question: What did we all receive at Christmas?

- (1) TGLBEHHEME _____
- (2) NEAGLO _____
- (3) NRMEDAG _____
- (4) ODEKSNY _____
- (5) AMGYR _____
- (6) OHESJIP _____
- (7) EFJSUS _____
- (8) ITEENMSW _____
- (9) SPHHSREEO _____
- (10) EMCFAL _____
- (11) TLSRA _____
- (12) CSSNUEO _____
- (13) HEVSPE _____
- (14) ENIN _____



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9 10 11 12 13 14

Answers: Bethlehem (G), Angel (O), Manger (D), Donkey (S), Mary (G), Joseph (I), Jesus (F), Wise men (T), Shepherds (O), Camel (F), Star (L), Census (O), Sheep (W), Inn (E), God's gift of love

Bible Quiz



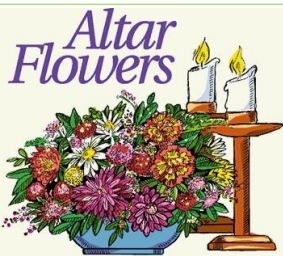
Who told Mary that her child would be called “the Son of the Most High”?

- A. Zechariah
- B. Gabriel
- C. Simeon
- D. Joseph

Answer: B (See Luke 1:26–32.)

“Jesus did not come to make God’s love possible, but to make God’s love visible.”

—Author unknown



2026 Altar Flowers

It is time to start signing up for 2026 Altar Flowers. We have room for two vases each week and the cost of each vase is \$28.00. You may sign up for as many dates as you wish. Fill out the form below with your payment and note what you wanted printed about who the flowers are in memory or honor of and who they are from. Extra forms are on the tables in the back of the sanctuary and in the church office. Please list alternate dates in case your preferred date is filled. If your preferred date is filled the office will let you know which date your flowers will be in church.

Your Name _____ Envelope Number _____

Number of vases ordered _____ Total Enclosed _____

Given in honor/memory of _____

Given by _____

Preferred Date _____ Alternate Dates _____

I will pick up my flowers _____ Please give the flowers to a shut-in _____

Given in honor/memory of _____

Given by _____

Preferred Date _____ Alternate Dates _____

I will pick up my flowers _____ Please give the flowers to a shut-in _____

Coats and Blankets For the Hospitality Center

Do you have gently used blankets or warm adult coats 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. Items can be dropped off in the narthex or the church office.

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.

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.

	December 7 9:30 a.m.	December 14 9:30 a.m.	December 21 9:30 a.m.	December 28 9:30 a.m.
Greeter	Christine Monreal	Debbie Kress		Gary Wee
Lector	Gary Wee	None needed	Joan Fergus	Joleen Carlson
Communion Assistants	Joni Reske	None Needed		Joan Fergus
AV Technicians	Alison Ferrentino	Kylee Albright Barb Salvo	Barb Salvo Asia Doidge	Kathy Berg
Coffee Fellowship	Joellen Childs	None needed		
Councilperson In Charge	Rose Adamski	Rebecca Mason	Laurie Knudson	David Knudson
Ushers	David Krueger, Steve Barootian, Gary Lequia, and Ed Wosilait			
Altar Guild	Susan Barbee, Val Conner, and Barb Salvo			

December Altar Flowers

December 7 - In memory of Mary Larsen on her birthday, given by Amy Larsen and Bob & Karen Larsen and in memory of Andrew Carlson, given by Eunice Carlson

December 14 - None needed

December 21 - In honor of their grandsons Dane & Cashton Simonovic's December birthdays, given by Dave and Darlene Krueger

December 28 - None needed

The Chalice **December, 2025**

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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