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THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Matthew's Gospel is one of four gospel accounts in the New Testament about Jesus and his life. Jesus is the fulfillment of everything the Jews believed in and expected... but Jesus' message and his teachings are for everyone.

The Gospel of Matthew was written about 40-60 years after Jesus' death. At this time, Gentile Christians were beginning to distance themselves from the teachings of Judaism. At the beginning of the Jesus movement, most Christians were Jewish. But by the end of the first century the balance was changing. In his gospel, Matthew is writing to both Jew and Gentile. To the Jews, he declares that Jesus was indeed the MESSIAH that the biblical prophets had promised and predicted.

To the Gentile Christians, Matthew is saying that God's Law and God's promises have been widened to include all nations and all peoples.

For Matthew, it is of great importance to show his readers that Jesus is the Son of God, and that God is with us in every aspect of our lives. Jesus came to live with us - so that God would know what we experience and so that we can trust God... because God understands the daily experiences of our lives.

His main teaching occurs in his Sermon on the Mount, where he focuses on the nature of the Kingdom of God. He is emphatic on the point that God's purpose cannot be defeated, and that Jesus' words will never pass away. The Sermon on the Mount is about God's mercy, God's compassion and God's inclusiveness. This is indeed what the Gospel is all about and this is what God's Kingdom is all about.

Grace and Peace to you all dear friends... God's loving purpose cannot be defeated.

Have a Blessed month.
Pastor Mark

Annual Congregational Meeting February 12th

Our annual congregational meeting will be after the worship service on Sunday, February 12th.

We will look at what happened in 2022, elect a new church council member, vote on the 2023 budget, and discuss the coming year. Please plan to attend this important meeting!

2022 Reports have been emailed and paper copies are available to pick up in the sanctuary and the church office.

Make a Joyful Noise!

On Sunday, February 5th, the kids and youth of HCLC will be singing a cool song called *Crowded Table*. We would like to invite folks from the congregation to join us in singing that day. If you want to give the song a listen beforehand, it's called *Crowded Table* and it's by the Highwomen.

For those who'd like to participate, rehearsals will take place in the choir room after the service on Sundays 1/22 and 1/29. If you'd like to join us, grab your coffee and a snack in the lounge right after church, then waltz on down to the choir room to learn this easy, powerful piece and on Sunday, February 5th, help us make a joyful noise!

I will *sing* and
make *music*
to the **LORD.**

Psalms 27:6, NIV



Ash Wednesday Worship

We invite you to join us
for Ash Wednesday worship
at 9:30 a.m. or 7:00 p.m.
on Wednesday, February 22,
as we begin the season of Lent.



Soup Suppers Return!

We are excited to announce that soup suppers are returning this year! Join us for some delicious soups and bread and a wonderful time of fellowship before our 7:00 p.m. Wednesday night Lenten worship services. We will have sign-up sheets soon so you can pick a week to bring a crockpot of your favorite soup to share,



The Children's Chalice



Holy Communion Lutheran Church February, 2023

FAMILY FIRST COMMUNION preparation classes (3) will be held on:

February 26th, March 26th and April 23rd at 11:00 a.m.

(Lunch will be provided.)

The First Communion celebration will take place on May 7th at the 9:30 a.m. service.

If you believe your child(ren) are ready to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion and your family would like to be a part of this year's class, please contact Lisa Lequia at sundayschool.hclc@gmail.com.

**Happy Valentine's Day...remind your children they are
GOD'S VALENTINE!**



Thank you "Undecorators"!

What goes up, must come down! Thank you to the amazing crew of ladder wrestlers, tub-stuffers, garland wranglers, tree dismantlers and more who undecorated the sanctuary on Saturday, January 14th! This hard-working and diligent crew managed to get everything down and stored in just about 2 hours! You are much appreciated!

Please say thanks to these folks when you see them!



Greg Albright
Grace Deibert
Mary Beth Huizinga
Harry Huizinga

Darlene Krueger
Dave Krueger
Carl Lussmyer
Shelley Lussmyer
Pastor Laura

Jo Nissen
Kate Potter-Barrow
Carol Riekema
Barb Salvo

Monday Morning Bible Study

Monday morning Bible study is meeting again after their Christmas Break. at 10:00 a.m. in the lounge to discuss the coming week's Gospel lesson. No book to buy this time as they will discuss the coming week's Gospel lesson, so just bring yourself and your Bible. All are invited to join the group at 10:00 a.m. Monday mornings in the lounge to join the discussion.



Love is the spark that kindles the fire of compassion. Compassion is the fire that flames the candle of service. Service is the candle that ignites the torch of hope. Hope is the torch that lights the beacon of faith. Faith is the beacon that reflects the power of God. God is the power that creates the miracle of love.



—William Arthur Ward



2nd - 5th Grade Youth Group (Will usually meet the first Sunday)



All of our 2nd - 5th Graders are invited to come and join the pastors for some Popcorn and Playtime on **Sunday, February 5th, from 11:00-12:00.**

6th - 8th Grade Youth Group - Due to our Congregational Annual Meeting on February 12th, we will not be meeting this month. **The next scheduled time to meet with all of you is March 19th.**



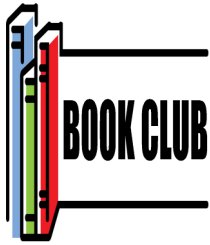
Confirmation Class

All of our 8th Graders (and older) who wish to confirm their faith on Pentecost Sunday (May 28, 2023) are invited to join Pastor Mark and Pastor Laura for a more intentional time of learning and deepening of faith through Bible and Catechetical time...and of course through some fun and games as well ☺. **We meet this month on Sunday, February 19th, from 11:00-12:00.** Snacks will be provided, but please bring your Bible.



(Will usually meet the fourth Sunday)

All of our 9th - 12th Graders are invited to join the pastors for a time of fun and fellowship. **We will also be sharing news about the upcoming Youth Gathering that will take place in New Orleans on July 16-20, 2024.** We need you and your input and look forward to hanging out, brainstorming and just having a good time with you! **This month we meet on Sunday, February 26th, from 11:00-12:00.** Snacks will be provided.



For February, we are reading Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver. The story is set in southwestern Virginia's impoverished Lee County in the 1990's and early 2000's. It is a modern retelling of Charles Dickens' David Copperfield. The book is about America's most impoverished, disadvantaged demographic-those who populate the remote hills and coal towns of Appalachia. When his mother dies, he lands in the foster home from hell. Demon's fortunes turn when he is taken in by relatives of his father's family. He is given food, shelter, and love. Reviews call the book a page-turner. It's a hefty read at 550 pages, so start reading soon. It has also been called Kingsolver's best novel yet. What keeps the reader going, is the knowledge that Demon has a future.

We will be meeting by ZOOM on February 8 at 10:00. If you would like to join us, please connect Julie Burton at 262-639-5914 or at jaburton5914@gmail.com for the ZOOM link.

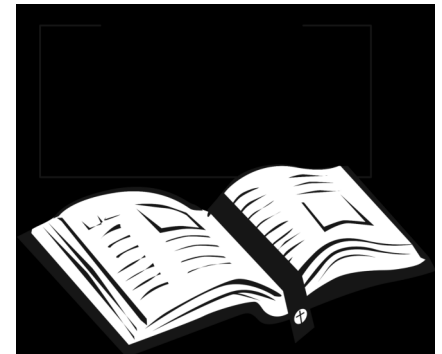
We plan to read Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi in March. It is the Kenosha Read for this year.

THIRD TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

February 21st we begin our three winter months of zoom meetings from 10:00 to 11:30. This month our study of the Gospel of Mark begins with "The Truth That Cannot Be Suppressed" on page 116. Both science and theology have struggled with acceptance of the truth. Even Jesus was appealing for the truth to be heard and believed. Then comes the difficult saying: the more you have, the greater will be the increase. But if you make no effort, what you have will be taken away. How's that for motivation!

Then comes the parable "the earth produces fruit with help from no one" (page 122). Next is the parable of the mustard seed (page 126). Like a conclusion to these sayings of Jesus, Mark 4:33-34 Jesus was "suiting his instruction to their ability to hear it" (page 129).

This section is a reminder of our need to continue learning about the teachings of Jesus. And we are doing just that. Our study of Mark will meet at 10:00 on February 21st. We will discuss Mark 4:22 to 4:34 on pages 116-132. So,

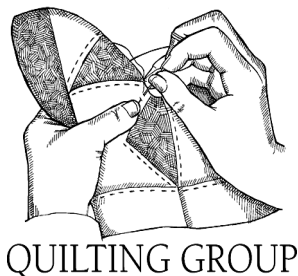


Circle of Hope Cancer Support

Our next gathering will be Thursday, February 16 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



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.

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

tomato soup	egg noodles
side dishes	canned tuna
canned corn	1 lb. boxes or bags of rice



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 and children's Bible storybooks. If you have any 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!

With Sighs Too Deep For Words



A Service of Love and Healing

A service of healing...

To acknowledge the grief and pain in our hearts, our lives, and our world.

To honor the needs of our fragile, beautiful, bittersweet humanity.

To rejoice in a merciful, forgiving

God who loves us in spite of and despite our brokenness and pain.

To unite our hearts and lift each other up as we share our fears,

our pain, and our grief with each other and the God who cherishes, embraces, and heals us.

Holy Communion Lutheran Church invites you to join us for

"With Sighs Too Deep for Words,"
a worship service of love and healing on Sunday, February 19th at 9:30 a.m.

Meet Our New Members

On November 27th we welcomed new members to the HCLC family. This month we introduce you to Amy Sturino and Elsie Trehus. They wrote these short bios to introduce themselves. If you haven't met them yet, please look for them and introduce yourself soon!

Amy Sturino

Hi everyone, I'm Amy! I'm almost 27 and was born and raised in Racine. I work from home in the talent acquisition field, and am simultaneously a stay at home mom - I like to call myself a work from home mom! In my free time, I like to crochet, read, and listen to music (most specially Taylor Swift - I've been a huge fan since I was 12 years old!). I married Daryle at Holy Communion in December of 2021 and this past August, we welcomed Emily Noelle to the world. We also have three cats - Rhett, Gemini, and Flapjack, and a special cat who lives forever in our hearts - Darius. I'm so happy to be a member of such a welcoming and wonderful church - I look forward to getting to know each of you!

Elsie Trehus

In 1956 when Rich and I married we moved to Racine and joined Holy Communion Church. Our 4 daughters were baptized here. In 1967 we moved to Minnesota for two years, returning to Racine in 1969. When we moved back to Racine in 1969, Gethsemane was at the end of the alley so we joined that church.

Life took us in many directions, and in 2017 when Rich passed away, we asked Pastor Laura to do his service. I came to church a few times but felt like a stranger. Then in 2021 my great grandson came to live with me and I felt the need for him to have a relationship with God.

With the passage of time, the church now brings back fond memories of those early years with Rich ushering, girls in Sunday School and my friends in the Elizabeth Circle. I look forward to making new friends and renewing any friendships from the early days if anyone remembers me!!!

Church Council Opportunity

We have a delightful ministry opportunity coming available in February 2023. Have you ever felt called by the Holy Spirit to serve on our Church Council here at Holy Communion? Well, even if you haven't, here's your chance. We have a two-year term council position that needs to be filled...and names/nominations will be received up until the Annual Meeting on February 12th. Please talk to Pastor Laura or Pastor Mark if you are interested or if you would like further information on what this position entails.



SHINING GOD'S LIGHT
FOR 125 YEARS

Save the Dates for these 125th Anniversary Events

January 22

125th Anniversary Kick-off

March 26

Jello Jamboree for Coffee Fellowship

May 21

Ice Cream Social for Coffee Fellowship

July 30

Worship and Family Picnic at Johnson Park

September 10

125th Celebration Worship and Evening Banquet at
Preservation Hall, downtown Racine

*Other special events through the year including trivia contests, guest
pastors, history displays and possible float on 4th of July. 😊*

Weekly Trivia Questions

Look for the weekly trivia questions in the Sunday bulletins!

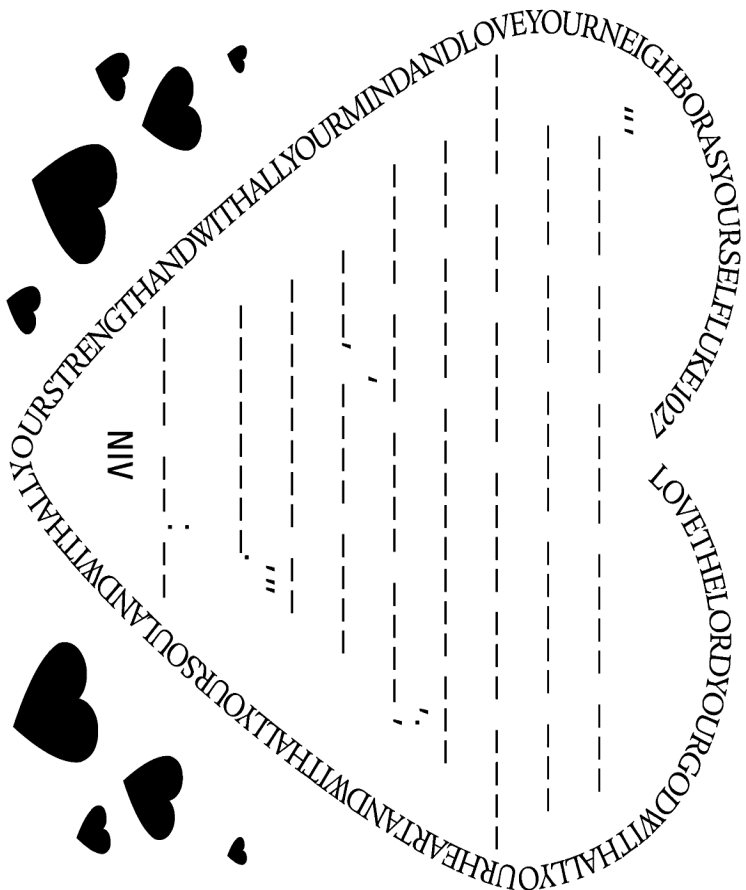
You can put your answer in the containers which will be in the back of the sanctuary, near the ramp door, and in the lounge. If you watch the service online you can still play. Just email your answers to office.hclc@gmail.com to be entered in the drawings.

February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 6:15 Bells 7:30 Senior Choir	3 1:00 Food Pantry	4
5 <i>Setting 4</i> 9:30 Worship & Sunday School 11:00 2nd - 5th Grade Youth	6 10:00 Bible Study 1:00 Food Pantry	7	8	9 6:15 Bells 7:30 Senior Choir	10 1:00 Food Pantry	11
12 <i>We Are Called</i> 9:30 Worship & Sunday School Annual Congregational Meeting	13 10:00 Bible Study 1:00 Food Pantry 6:30 Worship & Music	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> 1:00 Quilters	15 10:00 Book Club	16 10:00 Circle of Hope 6:15 Bells 7:30 Senior Choir	17 1:00 Food Pantry	18
19 <i>Healing Service</i> 9:30 Worship & Sunday School 11:00 Confirmation Youth	20 10:00 Bible Study 1:00 Food Pantry	21 10:00 Third Tuesday Bible Study	22 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 9:30 Worship 7:00 Worship	23 6:15 Bells 7:30 Senior Choir	24 1:00 Food Pantry	25
26 <i>Setting 8</i> 9:30 Worship & Sunday School 11:00 High School Youth	27 10:00 Bible Study 1:00 Food Pantry	28 1:00 Quilters				

Puzzle!

Draw lines to separate the words in the heart outline. Then, starting with "Love," write the words in order inside the heart to complete the two greatest commandments.



Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, Love your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27, NIV

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

Fill in the blanks for three qualities Paul, in 1 Corinthians 13, attributes to love: "Love is _____; love is _____. ... it keeps no record of _____."

- A. challenging, important, the past
- B. childlike, innocent, injustice
- C. self-sacrificing, generous, finances
- D. patient, kind, wrongs

Love is...

Answer: D (See 1 Corinthians 13:4-5, NIV.)

Valentine Humor

Love and laughter go hand in hand!

Share these jokes with your beloved on February 14 — or whenever some humor can brighten a day!

Q: What valentine did the French chef give his wife?

A: A hug and a quiche

Q: What did the paper clip say to the magnet?

A: "I find you very attractive."

Q: What did the pencil say to the paper?

A: "I dot my i's on you!"

Q: How did the phone propose to his girlfriend?

A: He gave her a ring.

Q: What do you call a very small valentine?

A: A valentiny

Finance Update

December 2022

Revenue: \$86,486.01
Expenses: \$46,966.96
Net Income: \$39,519.05

Year to Date 2022

Revenue: \$512,642.11
Expenses: \$543,045.75
Net Income: (\$30,403.64)

February 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.

	February 5 9:30am	February 12 9:30am	February 19 9:30am	February 26 9:30 am
Greeter	Lori Neu	Linda Fox	Kay Krause	Trish & Charles Jacob
Lector	Kylee Albright	Val Conner	Carson Krenzke	Roger Degerman
Communion Assistant	Kylee Albright Gregg Albright	Joan Fergus Jim Black	Sheri Krenzke Chad Krenzke	Jean Veltman Roger Degerman
AV Technicians	Lynn Helmke Barb Salvo	Kylee Albright Barb Salvo	Todd Jansen Barb Salvo	Barb Salvo
Coffee Fellowship	Rebecca and Cory Mason	Shelley Lussmyer	Kaytie & Matt Wolf	Jim & Jean Veltman
Councilperson In Charge	Kylee Albright	Andy Larson	Dave Knudson	Lynn Helmke
Ushers	Dave Barlament, Jim Buhler, Tim Krikau			
Altar Guild	Karen Johnson, Lynn Riekkoff, Cindy Myhre, and Lynn Sinclair			

February Altar Flowers

February 5 - none

February 12 - in memory of R.J. (Rudy) Kovac given by Bob & Karen Kovac Larsen

February 19 - in memory of Cornelius & Mariane Vander Brug given by Jill Vander Brug

February 26 - in memory of Wally Nissen given by Jo Nissen

The Chalice **February 2023**

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