

THE CHALICE

Hope on a Hill

A publication of Holy Communion Lutheran Church February, 2026

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Jesus' Family Tree

People from all over the world, especially Jews, had been eagerly awaiting the Messiah - One who would lead them to greatness. They believed that the Messiah would restore their national greatness. They believed he would change the world... but even more... that he would change history forever.

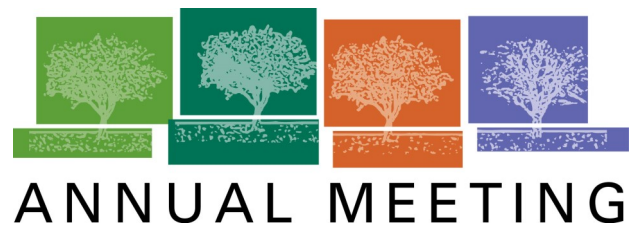
The book of Matthew doesn't begin with Jesus' birth. It actually reaches further back into history to establish his roots. If indeed Jesus was and is the Messiah, then his ancestors must match up to that claim. And as any student of history knows, King's don't merely declare themselves kings... they must belong to a royal line. So Matthew traces Jesus' lineage back to the father of the Israelite people - Abraham - and then connects Jesus to that royal family through Isaac and Jacob and David and Solomon and Joseph his father...

After recording Jesus' bloodline, Matthew narrates the story of Jesus' life on earth. He relies heavily on the Old Testament. He even quotes the Old Testament more often than he uses New Testament sources... In this way, Matthew stands as the gospel that ties things together. It's the link between the old and the new. Matthew starts with Jesus' roots, but he also contrasts Jesus with the traditional notion of what a Messiah would do. As Matthew points out, Jesus came to establish a wholly new kind of Kingdom. It would not be a Kingdom of power or muscle or might... it would be a kingdom of goodness and mercy... it would be a kingdom of gentleness and love. Because gentleness, mercy and love... are the truest forms of greatness. Thanks be to God.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Mark



Please plan to stay after worship on Sunday, February 8th for our annual congregational meeting. We will look back on 2025, look ahead to what is planned for 2026, vote on the 2026 budget, and elect council members and we would like to have your input! Annual reports were emailed on January 23rd.



Paper copies of the report are available on the tables in the back of the sanctuary, and in the Welcome Center.

Lenten Worship and Soup Suppers

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18th. We will gather to worship at 9:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Ash Wednesday. The following five Wednesdays in Lent we will worship at 7:00 p.m. The theme for our Lenten worship services is Out of Darkness Into Light. All are invited to join us for a meal at 6:00 p.m. before worship. There will be a sign up sheet in the lounge if you are able to bring something to share for the meal. We hope you will join us!

Diaper Ministry

Thank you to Gary and Kathy Wee for sponsoring the Diaper Depot delivery in February. Please consider supporting the diaper ministry by sponsoring a month of Diaper Depot delivery for \$30.



Our next distribution dates are February 11th from 11AM to 1PM and February 25th from 4 PM – 6 PM. Contact Kylee Albright, kygregg@mac.com or Amy Larsen, amylarsen2406@att.net with any questions or to volunteer.. Thank you!



Many thanks to all who provide food and monetary assistance to the pantry and a very special thank you to our volunteers who do so much to keep the pantry running! We have two volunteers that come three mornings a week to restock shelves, two volunteers who shop twice a week, two volunteers who pick up bakery from Pick 'n Save and O&H Bakery three times a week, six volunteers who come in once a month to unload the 8-12 pallets of food from the government and Racine County Food Bank, and one volunteer who takes the leftover bread and bakery to Mt. Pleasant Place, a home for senior citizens. And then there are many volunteers who come twice a week to do the computer work, paper work, set up orders and then take them out to the cars. And last, but not least, are the volunteers who break down, tie up, and take the mountain of cardboard down to the boiler room twice a week. We count not continue this ministry without your help!

For February the pantry is asking for donations of cereal, 1 lb. pkgs. of spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, jelly, tuna, and small condiments. We can also use clean, lightly used plastic shopping bags, large brown paper bags, 2026 calendars, cookbooks, children's Bible storybooks, greeting cards, and pens and pencils.

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. The Hospitality Center offers meals, a clothing closet, a warm gathering spot on cold days, laundry, and serves many other needs of some of the most vulnerable people in our city. Items can be dropped off in the narthex or the church office.



The Children's Chalice

Holy Communion Lutheran Church February, 2026



NOISY OFFERING IMPACT

The Noisy Offering collections for 2025 (\$3,016.07) were given to LWR Disaster Response-California Wildfires (\$519.22), KIVA (\$100.00), Hospitality Center of Racine (\$400.00), Families in Transition within Racine Unified Schools (\$600), ELCA Good Gifts-one God's Global Barnyard and eight Fruit Tree Seedlings (\$795.00), HCLC Diaper Ministry (\$300.00), and HCLC Food Pantry (\$301.85).

Happy Valentine's Day...remind your children they are

GOD'S VALENTINE!



2nd - 5th Graders All of our 2nd - 5th Graders are invited to come and join the pastors for some snacks, Bible Time and Games on **Sunday, February 1st. We will gather together following Sunday School and meet until Noon.** We're looking forward to seeing you all!!!

Confirmation Class 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. We will gather on **Sunday, February 8th following worship and meet until Noon.** Snacks will be provided.

Looking forward to seeing you all!!!



Our February read is The House is on Fire by Rachel Beanland. This historical novel is set in Richmond, VA in 1811. At the city's only theater, the Charleston-based Placide & Green Company puts on two plays a night to entertain the people that have arrived in town for the winter session of the General Assembly.

On the night after Christmas, the theater is packed with more than six hundred holiday revelers. There are four to people follow. Sally Henry Campbell who is reliving happier times. In the colored gallery, there's Cecily Patterson who is just glad have a reprieve from daily life. Backstage is stagehand Jack Gibson

hoping for a permanent job offer. On the other side of town is blacksmith Gilbert Hunt hoping to earned enough money to buy his wife's freedom. When the theater goes up in flames. each make a series of split-second decisions that affect their own lives and those of countless others. As news of fire spreads, their lives will become forever intertwined. This story is based on fact. In the midst of great tragedy, we are offered our most precious chances at redemption.

We are meeting on Feb. 11 by Zoom at 10:00. Call Julie Burton at 262-639-5914 or Rondi Jenkins at 262-221-5619. We are planning to meet at Rondi's home to share ZOOM.

Third Tuesday Bible Study

February 17th the monthly study of the book of Acts will be by Zoom. Julie Burton will be in Phoenix so she will connect with the group by computer. Rondi Jenkins has invited the group to meet at her house: 6010 Potomac Place (262:884-7998). Anyone can join the discussion by zoom from 10:00 to 11:30.

The discussion begins on page 75 in William Barclay's study guide "Things Which Cannot Be Bought and Sold." Simon, the magician, offers the disciples money for the power to heal others. Quite in contrast, *Christ Comes To An Ethiopian" (Acts 8:26-40) who is reading Isaiah and asks Philip to help him understand. Philip teaches him about Jesus and the Ethiopian asks to be baptized. Then Acts 9:1-9 describes the amazing story of Saul who was headed to Jerusalem to assault these early Christians. A light from heaven strikes him blind as God's voice asks, "Why do you persecute me?" (page 80). After three days, God sends Ananais to heal Saul and convert him. Now Saul is "Witnessing For Christ" (9:19-22) and renamed Paul. Paul witnesses in Damascus and then Jerusalem (pages 86-88) even as his life is being threatened.

This lesson describes some of the challenges facing the early church. Most importantly, it describes the amazing conversion of Saul from one who persecuted Christians to one who was a strong witness for the faith.

All are welcome to join us on February 17th, from 10:00 to 11:30, to discuss Acts 8:14 to 9:31, pages 76 to 88 in William Barclay.

Ketchup Club

Please plan to join us at 11:30 Tuesday, February 3rd, for lunch at Los Mariachis, 5821 Washington Avenue. 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!



February Birthday Club

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



MEN'S GROUP

All men are invited to join Pastor Mark in the lounge at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, February 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!

Quilting Group

The HCLC quilters meet on the second and fourth Tuesday each month at 1:00 p.m. to work on quilts for Lutheran World Relief. LWR sends the quilts all over the world to help warm and comfort people who have lost their homes, been affected by war or natural disaster. They can use donations of full, queen or king size flat sheets to use as backing for the quilts. They can also use financial contributions to help pay for quilt batting. Please contact Linda Holmquist, 262-633-0032 or Evelyn Lajiness, 262-634-0527 if you have any questions

Finance Update

December Finance Numbers

Revenue: \$99,335.58
Expense: \$48,603.09
Net Income: \$50,732.49

Year to Date Finance Numbers

Revenue: \$589,523.53
Expense: \$585,327.11
Net Income: \$4,196.42

Changes to our Scrip Program

We plan on having a NEW PLAN moving forward in 2026 to simplify ordering and reduce inventory. Will keep on hand only what you see in the list below because they are the biggest sellers and turn over quickly.

Gas:

- 4% rebate Kwik Trip \$25, \$100
- 4% rebate Speedway \$25, \$50, \$100

Grocery:

- 3% rebate Festival Foods \$25, \$50, \$100
- 3% rebate Meijer \$25, \$50
- 3% rebate Piggly Wiggly \$25, \$50, \$100
- 4% rebate Roundy's/Pick'nSave \$25, \$50, \$100

Health:

- 5% rebate Walgreens \$25, \$100

General:

- 1.5% rebate Amazon \$25, \$100 (none currently on hand, but can if someone would like)
- 2.5% rebate Target \$10, \$25, \$50 (None currently on hand, but I typically keep some.)
- 1.25% rebate VISA \$25, \$50, \$100 (none currently on hand, but I typically keep some)
- 2.5% rebate Walmart/Sam's Club \$25, \$50

If you would like us to add anything to the above list that you plan to order regularly, we will do that, just let us know.

A complete list of available cards can be found at the SCRIP website: raiserright.com

We also have a more limited paper order form at the SCRIP table.

We will order monthly at the end of each month anything else you would want that is not on hand.

Turn in order by the last Sunday of the month.

You can find a list on the website or get a paper list from us at the SCRIP table.

It would be helpful to have payment when you drop off the order, but it is more important to have the order on that date, than the payment.

Orders will be available for pick up the following Sunday (1st Sunday of the month)

We want to highlight the following cards that are currently on hand, but we would like to sell off to reduce inventory.

If you can use any of these cards, please come see us at the SCRIP table!

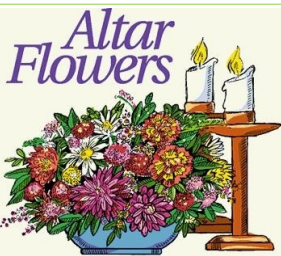
- 6.5% Dairy Queen \$10 x 4
- 6% Firehouse Subs \$25 x 5
- 7% Kohl's \$25 x 1
- 8% Marcus Theaters \$25 x 2

Noisy Offering Impact

The Noisy Offering collections for 2025 (\$3,016.07) were given to LWR Disaster Response California Wildfires (\$519.22), KIVA which is a nonprofit platform that lets people lend small amounts of money to entrepreneurs and communities around the world. The loans are crowdfunded, help people grow businesses or access essentials and are repaid so you can relend the money to others (\$100.00), Hospitality Center of Racine (\$400.00), Families in Transition (FIT) Program within Racine Unified Schools that provides assistance to students living in temporary housing. It assists families with school-age children to overcome the barriers to full participation in the public education system, including identification, enrollment and referral services (\$600.00), ELCA Good Gifts-1 God's Global Barnyard and 8 Fruit Tree Seedlings (\$795.00), HCLC Diaper Ministry (\$300.00), and HCLC Food Pantry (\$301.85).



NOISY OFFERING



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 _____

 This year, Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, falls on February 18th. During worship services that day, pastors in many Christian churches dip a finger in ashes (often made by burning branches from the previous Palm Sunday) and make a cross on parishioners' foreheads.

Why ashes? Traditionally, they're a sign of mourning, humiliation and penitence. Ashes also represent the frailty and temporary nature of human life ("You are dust, and to dust you shall return," Genesis 3:19). The traditional Ash Wednesday words "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return" might seem depressing. But in our often death-denying culture, some might find it refreshing to hear the frank statement that we can do nothing to save ourselves, physically or spiritually — that, no matter how we try to avoid sin, we can't untangle ourselves from self-interest. How liberating, then, to know we don't have to! God loves us as we are and sent Jesus to break sin's power over us.

A pastor described Ash Wednesday as the point you can pinch in the middle of a long piece of ribbon, such that when you lift it high, the two ends — one symbolizing our baptism and the other, our funeral — meet and touch. We come from dust and will return to dust, but we also come from God and will return to God. Ash Wednesday reminds us that we're always safe in God's love.



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!

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.



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, keri.hclc@gmail.com.



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.

**Lord, teach me to love in action today. “Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth”
(1 John 3:18, NIV).**

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 We Are Called 9:30 Worship/Sunday School 10:30 2nd - 5th Grade Youth</p>	<p>2 9:30 Bible Study Breakfast at The Dish 12:30 Food Pantry</p>	<p>3 11:30 Ketchup Club at Los Marachis</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 12:30 Food Pantry</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 Setting 4 9:30 Worship/Sunday School 10:45 Annual Meeting</p>	<p>9 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Food Pantry</p>	<p>10 1:00 Quilters</p>	<p>11 10:00 Book Club 11-1 Diaper Ministry</p>	<p>12 10:00 Birthday Club</p>	<p>13 9:00 Men's Group 12:30 Food Pantry</p>	<p>14 Valentine's Day</p>
<p>15 O the Joy 9:30 Worship/Sunday School 10:30 Confirmation Class</p>	<p>16 President's Day 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Food Pantry</p>	<p>17 10:00 Third Tues. Bible Study</p>	<p>18 Ash Wednesday 9:30 Worship 7:00 Worship</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 12:30 Food Pantry</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 Setting 8 9:30 Worship/Sunday School</p>	<p>23 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 Food Pantry</p>	<p>24 1:00 Quilters</p>	<p>25 4-6 Diaper Ministry 6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Lenten Worship</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 12:30 Food Pantry</p>	<p>28</p>

Bee-loved by Texas!

I SPY... How many gardening tools can you find?

Complete the maze to water the flowers:

Spread some love! What seeds do you want to grow? Draw them here:

SEEDS

SEEDS

Connect the dots to help the garden grow!


D	R	O	B	G
I	A	Q	M	U
R	I	R	H	B
T	N	A	L	P
X	W	O	R	M
S	U	N	A	U

BUG RAIN DIRT SUN PLANT WORM

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Bible Quiz

The New Testament uses several Greek words to describe love. Which of the following best represents the **selfless, sacrificial** love that God shows to humanity?



- A) Eros
- B) Phileo
- C) Agape
- D) Storge

Answer: C (See John 3:16 and 1 Corinthians 13)



**SHINE YOUR
LIGHT.
SHARE GOD'S
LOVE!**

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 1 9:30 a.m.	February 8 9:30 a.m.	February 15 9:30 a.m.	February 22 9:30 a.m.
Greeter	Shelley Lussmyer	Lori Neu	Sally Neitzel	
Lector	Lynn Sinclair	Joleen Carlson	Roger Degerman	Marianne Jensen
Communion Assistants		Joleen Carlson	Roger Degerman	Amy Larsen
AV Technicians	Kylee Albright Sawyer Krenzke	Kathy Berg	Barb Salvo Asia Doidge	Alison Ferrentino
Coffee Fellowship			Shelley Lussmyer	
Coun- cilperson In Charge	Kylee Albright	Rebecca Mason	Joleen Carlson	Laurie Knudson
Ushers	Jim Buhler, Todd Jansen, Tim Krikau, Gary Wee			
Altar Guild	Cindy Myhre, Lynn Riekkoff			

February Altar Flowers

February 1 - In loving memory of Tom Rolfson, given by Cathie Rolfson and Lynn and Chris Litzau.

February 8 - available

February 15 - available

February 22- In loving memory of Ron Eckhardt, given by Jo Nissen.

To order altar flowers, please contact the church office.

The Chalice February, 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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 Pastor Laura Fladtenpastorlaura.hclc@gmail.com
 Lisa Lequia, Children’s Ministry Director.....sundayschool.hclc@gmail.com
 Keri Pappalardo, Financial Administrator.....keri.hclc@gmail.com
 Heidi Komistra, Office Administrator.....office.hclc@gmail.com
 Office Phone.....262-632-8802
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Website: www.hopeonahill.org