

**Sunday, September 21, 2025**  
**The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost**



**Sharing the Light!**

**Holy Communion Lutheran Church**  
**A community called to Worship, Learn, Love and Serve.**  
**2000 West Sixth Street Racine, Wisconsin**

*Special thanks to greeter Sally Neitzel, assisting minister Laura Jansen, lector Roger Degerman, AV technicians Barb Salvo and Asia Doidge, ushers David Krueger, Steve Barootian, Gary Lequia, and Ed Wosilait, altar guild Sandy Ivanoski, Kay Krause, Lori Neu, Lindsay Newton, and Joni Reske, coffee fellowship Shelley Lussmyer, councilperson in charge Rose Adamski, and musicians Ann Heide, Elaine Lewis, Betty Petersen, Gary Wood, and Kate Potter Barrow for sharing their time and talent with us today.*

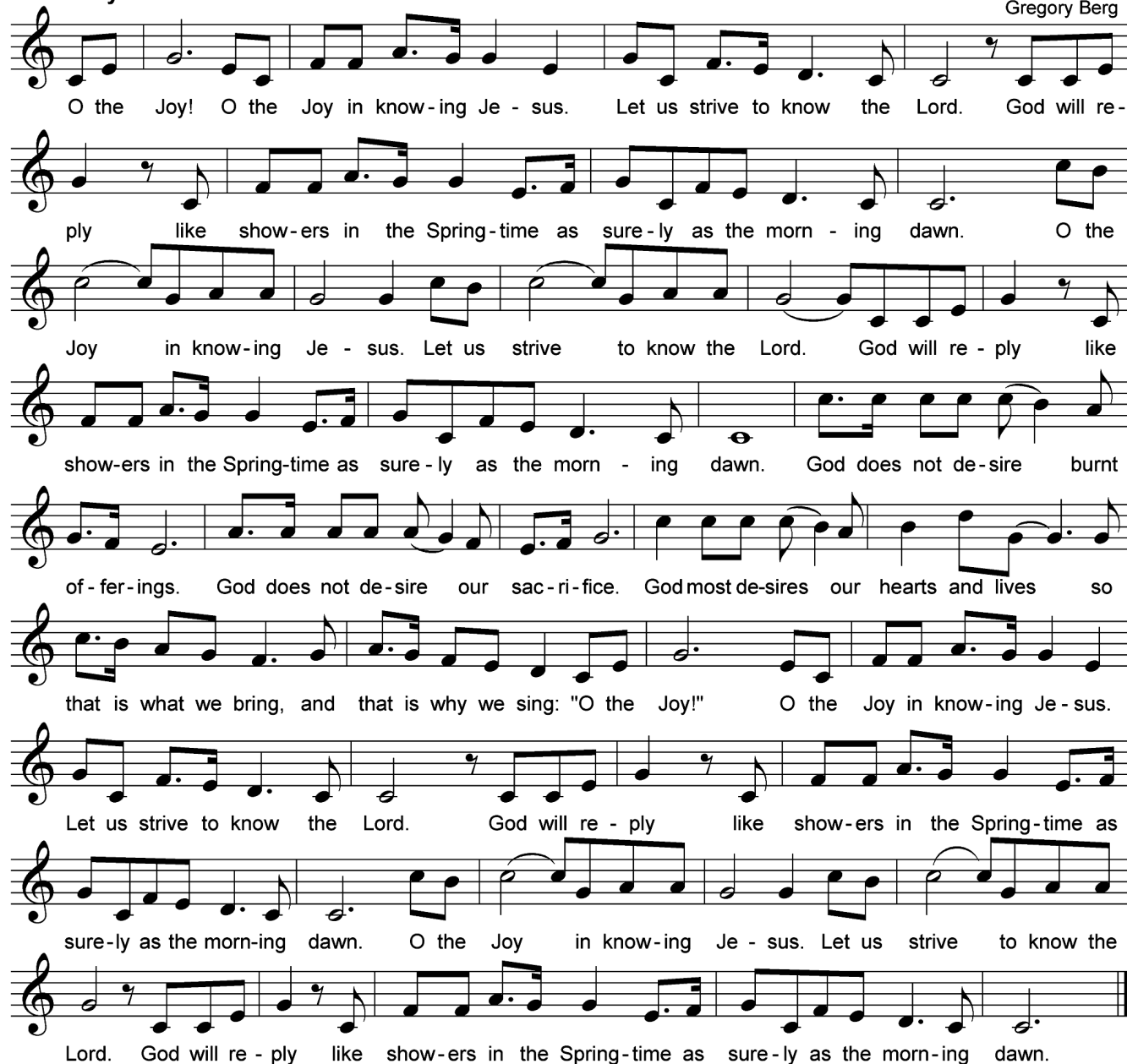
*Please stand, if you are able, where there is an asterisk \* in the bulletin.*

**PRELUDE** (A quiet time of reflection, to prepare for worship.)

**\*GATHERING SONG**

**O the Joy**

Gregory Berg



O the Joy! O the Joy in know-ing Je - sus. Let us strive to know the Lord. God will re-  
ply like show-ers in the Spring-time as sure-ly as the morn - ing dawn. O the  
Joy in know-ing Je - sus. Let us strive to know the Lord. God will re - ply like  
show-ers in the Spring-time as sure - ly as the morn - ing dawn. God does not de-sire burnt  
of - fer-ings. God does not de-sire our sac - ri - fice. God most de-sires our hearts and lives so  
that is what we bring, and that is why we sing: "O the Joy!" O the Joy in know-ing Je - sus.  
Let us strive to know the Lord. God will re - ply like show-ers in the Spring-time as  
sure-ly as the morn-ing dawn. O the Joy in know-ing Je - sus. Let us strive to know the  
Lord. God will re - ply like show-ers in the Spring-time as sure-ly as the morn-ing dawn.

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

**Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.

Merciful and loving God,  
**we are your stiff-necked people.**  
**We trample on the needy.**  
**We grumble about your grace to others.**  
**We turn away from the poor.**  
**Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.**  
**Rejoice over us as ones who were lost**  
**and have been found.**  
**Amen.**

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.  
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.  
You who were lost have been found.

In the name of ✝ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!  
**Amen.**

**\*GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

**\*KYRIE**

Leader: Let us join as - one as we pray to the Lord, ***Lord have mer - cy.*** For the

Congregation: peace from a - bove and for our sal - va - tion, ***Lord have mer -***

***cy.*** For this ho - ly house and for all who in faith gath - er to wor - ship in this place, that

we may be - hold a - glimpse of your face, ***Lord have mer - cy. Lord have mer - cy,***

***Christ have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy.*** That all of the world may

know your peace, ***Lord have mer - cy.*** That the poor be re - stored and the

bound re - leased, ***Lord have mer - cy.*** That the life of the church may be

strong and se - cure anchored and cen - tered - sole - ly on you, and for gui - dance and grace in all that we do,

***Lord have mer - cy. Lord have mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy.***

# \*HYMN OF PRAISE

leader

Lord God of pow - er and might, hea-ven and earth are

congregation

Lord God of pow - er and might, hea-ven and earth are

4

full of your glo - ry. Lord God of pow - er and might,

full of your glo - ry. Lord God of pow - er and might,

7

hea-ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. *Fine* Glo - ry, Maj - e - sty, and

(Lord God, Heaven-ly King the

hea-ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. *Fine* Glo - ry, Maj - e - sty,

(Lord God, Heaven-ly King,

11

Praise to Thee be gi - ven. Christ who takes a -

on - ly Son of the Fa - ther)

and Praise to Thee be gi - ven. Christ who takes

the on - ly Son of the Fa - ther)

14

way our sin have mer - cy up - on us. *D.C. al Fine*

a - way our sin have mer - cy up - on us. *D.C. al Fine*

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC “My Own Two Hands” Ben Harper** (please see the lyrics on the back of the bulletin)  
**Singers: Eleanor Mason, Amelia Mason, Val Conner, Kylee Albright, and Kate Potter Barrow**  
**Guitar: Gary Wood and Elaine Lewis**

## **CHILDREN’S SERMON**

## **CHILDREN AND YOUTH MAY GO TO CHOIR**

### **WORD**

#### **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 8:18 - 9:1**

<sup>18</sup> My joy is gone; grief is upon me;  
my heart is sick.  
<sup>19</sup> Listen! The cry of the daughter of my people  
from far and wide in the land:  
“Is the LORD not in Zion?  
Is her King not in her?”  
 (“Why have they provoked me to anger with their images,  
with their foreign idols?”)  
<sup>20</sup> “The harvest is past, the summer is ended,  
and we are not saved.”  
<sup>21</sup> For the brokenness of the daughter of my people I am broken,  
I mourn, and horror has seized me.  
<sup>22</sup> Is there no balm in Gilead?  
Is there no physician there?  
Why then has the health of the daughter of my people  
not been restored?  
<sup>9:1</sup> O that my head were a spring of water  
and my eyes a fountain of tears,  
so that I might weep day and night  
for the slain of the daughter of my people

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **PSALM: Psalm 79:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> O God, the nations have come into your inheritance; they have profaned your holy temple;  
they have made Jerusalem a heap of rubble.  
<sup>2</sup> **They have given the bodies of your servants as food for the birds of the air,  
and the flesh of your faithful ones to the beasts of the field.**  
<sup>3</sup> They have shed their blood like water on every side of Jerusalem,  
and there was no one to bury them.  
<sup>4</sup> **We have become a reproach to our neighbors,  
an object of scorn and derision to those around us.**  
<sup>5</sup> How long will you be angry, O LORD?  
Will your fury blaze like fire forever?  
<sup>6</sup> **Pour out your wrath upon the nations who have not known you  
and upon the kingdoms that have not called up- on your name.**  
<sup>7</sup> For they have devoured Jacob and made his dwelling a ruin.  
<sup>8</sup> **Remember not our past sins; let your compassion be swift to meet us;  
for we have been brought very low.**  
<sup>9</sup> Help us, O God our Savior, for the glory of your name;  
deliver us and forgive us our sins, for your name’s sake.

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## \*GOSPEL: Luke 16: 1-13

The holy gospel according to Luke, the sixteenth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup> So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’

<sup>3</sup> Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup> I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ <sup>5</sup> So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ <sup>6</sup> He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ <sup>7</sup> Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ <sup>8</sup> And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. <sup>9</sup> And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

<sup>10</sup> “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup> If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup> No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON     Dirty Money?     Pastor Mark Doidge**

## Baptized and Set Free

453



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.  
2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.  
3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,  
4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.  
Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.  
and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.  
All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door  
For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:  
As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:  
Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.  
end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.  
pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.  
one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956  
Music: Cathy Skogen-Soldner  
Text and music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

BAPTIZED AND SET FREE  
7 4 7 5 6 6 8 5

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH RETURN TO WORSHIP

**\*APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,  
God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## \*INVITATION SONG

Leader: Come to the ta - ble of the... Congregation: Come to the ta - ble of the Lord to the ta - ble of the...

Come to the ta - ble of the Lord.

Leader: 1. Wine is poured and bread is bro - ken.  
2. Have no fear or hes - i - ta - tion,

Words of Institution are spoken here

Hear the gos - pel and pro - mise spo - ken.  
Come with hope and ex - pec - ta - tion.

All: Come as fam - 'ly friends and neigh - bors. Come en - count - er Christ the Sa - vior.

Leader: Come to the ta - ble of the... Congregation: Come to the ta - ble of the

Lord. to the ta - ble of the... Come to the ta - ble of the Lord.

## \*LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

### COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God, O pre - cious Lamb of God, You take a - way the sins of the world. Have

mer - cy up - on us. Lamb of God, O right - eous Lamb of God, You take a - way the sins of the

world. Have mer - cy up - on us. Lamb of God, Most Ho - ly Lamb of God, You

take a - way the sins of the world. Grant to your peo - ple peace.

## \*POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## CHILDREN MAY GO TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

## OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

Thanks we bring to God a-bove for the bles-sings of His love, shown to us in count-less ways.

That is why we give our praise. Let us thank the Lord. Let us thank the Lord.

Bles-sings sim-ple, bles-sings grand come from God's al-might-y hand, far be-yond what we de-serve.

Let our thanks and praise be heard. Let us bless the Lord. Let us bless the Lord.

All we are and all we own comes from God and God a-lone!

All the bles-sings we re-ceive, far more than we can con-ceive, lead us then to give and share

with the need-y ev'-ry-where. Let us thank the Lord. Let us thank the Lord.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray. (brief silence)

You are love, dear God, and You call us to love one another as You have first loved us. Help us to be braver, freer, and more generous in our love - and to extend our love to others in both our words and our deeds. Hear us, O God-

**and grant us your grace.**

You are love, dear God, and You created us to be in authentic fellowship with one another. Foster in us a desire for true connection with those around us, and help us to step beyond the walls we erect or the screens behind which we hide, that we may experience the rich blessing of love between friends, neighbors, and family. Hear us, O God -

**and grant us your grace.**

You are love, dear God, and Your love is reflected in the world around us. Help us to cherish this beautiful earth and all of the creatures that inhabit it - and inspire us to do all we can to preserve this planet for those who come after us. Hear us, O God-

**and grant us your grace.**

You are love, dear God, and You remind us that love is stronger than hate - stronger than fear- stronger than darkness. Inspire us to be bold and tireless in our love- especially in our love for those who face persecution, marginalization, or isolation. Help us to discard lazy labels or senseless conditions that hinder the love that You call us to demonstrate. Let our love be rooted in compassion and understanding. Hear us, O God -

**and grant us your grace.**

You are love, dear God, and You call us to love even those whom we see as adversaries ..... and to extend love even to those who seem to disdain it. Remind us again and again of the power of love to break down barriers, to soften hardened and embittered hearts, and to bring peace to places trapped in fear and misunderstanding. Hear us, O God-

**and grant us your grace.**

You are love, dear God, and Your love is always with us ..... but especially in life's most difficult, painful times. Draw near to all who are facing difficulties of any kind - <Names> Help them know that they are not alone. Hear us, O God-

**and grant us your grace.**

You are love, dear God, and in You we see what real and lasting love is. Help all of us in all of the most important relationships of our lives to embrace the gifts of patience, kindness, selflessness, gentleness, and gratitude - that our love may be joyous, grounded, healthy, and invigorating. Hear us, O God-

**and grant us your grace.**

Hear these spoken prayers and the unspoken prayers of our hearts, that we may taste the full measure of Your love and grace, through Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

## BLESSING

The God of righteousness,  
who gives justice to the oppressed,  
who gives food to the hungry,  
who sets the prisoners free

✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

SENDING

# God Be with You Till We Meet Again 536

1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,  
2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,  
3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils thick con-found you,

with a shep-herd's care en - fold you;  
dai - ly man - na still pro-vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
put un - fail - ing arms a - round you;

*Refrain*

Till we meet, till we meet, till we  
till we meet, till we meet a - gain,  
meet at Je - sus' feet; till we meet, till we  
till we meet, till we meet, till we  
meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
meet a - gain,

Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828-1904  
Music: William G. Tomer, 1833-1896

GOD BE WITH YOU  
98 89 and refrain

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.  
Thanks be to God.

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*Please join us in the lounge for coffee and fellowship.*



## **Announcements**

### **Altar Flowers**

The flowers on the altar are in honor of Courtney Carlson's birthday given with love by her mom and dad, and in loving memory of Anne Cuccio and Joe & Kathy Cuccio, given by Joleen, Jim, and Courtney Carlson.

### **Welcome Visitors!**

A special welcome to any visitors worshipping with us this morning. Please fill out one of the yellow cards in the pew rack in front of you so we can acknowledge your visit with us. You can put your completed card into the offering plate or give it to an usher or a pastor before you leave. Please join us in the lounge after the worship service for a cup of coffee and a treat and a time of conversation and fellowship.

### **Communion By Intinction**

All are welcome to come to the table for Communion. We offer Holy Communion through Intinction (dipping of the wafer into chalice of wine). There are also gluten free wafers and grape juice available in the center. If you feel more comfortable communing in your pew, there are individual wafer/juice cups available on the tables in the back of the sanctuary.

### **Coffee and Questions: Charitable Giving and Estate Planning - 9/28/25 during coffee hour**

Do you have questions about the new tax laws and how they might impact your charitable giving? Or maybe you are wondering about a trust or what's the best way to leave a legacy to your church family?

Bring your coffee and questions for Rebecca Mason, Attorney, and Kevin Newton, Certified Financial Planner, who have experience with the rules and regs of charitable giving and estate planning.

Rebecca and Kevin will give an informal overview of these topics in the youth room during coffee hour on Sunday, Sept 28th. Hope to see you there!

### **Youth Groups Meeting in October**

**2nd - 5th Graders** will meet on **Sunday, October 5th**. They will gather together after Sunday School and enjoy games, Bible time, and snacks until noon.

**Confirmation Class** will meet on **Sunday, October 12th** following worship until noon. All 8th graders are invited to join the pastors for a tie to journey deeper into their own faith. Snacks will be provided!

**6th - 12th Graders** will meet **Sunday, October 19th** from 5:00 - 6:30pm for fun, faith, and food. They will begin in the kirchen where they will all help prepare a meal to enjoy together. Come hungry!

### **Diaper Ministry**

Thank you to Joleen and Jim Carlson for sponsoring this month's Diaper Depot delivery in memory of Joe and Kathy Cuccio and to the Funk family who sponsor in memory of Wayne & Jan Sotona.

Our next distribution dates are September 24<sup>th</sup> from 4PM – 6PM and October 8th from 11AM - 1PM.

We are in need of size 7 and all the toddler pull-up sizes of diapers. If you are out and see a sale on these sizes, please consider a diaper donation! Contact Amy Larsen [amylarsen2406@att.net](mailto:amylarsen2406@att.net) or Kylee Albright [kygregg@mac.com](mailto:kygregg@mac.com) with any questions or if you would like to volunteer.

### **Food Pantry**

The food pantry is asking for donations of spaghetti noodles, cereal, pork & beans, peanut butter, side dishes, and spaghetti's. The number of clients served has been high, so we greatly appreciate any support you can give us! If you have extra produce from your garden the pantry would be happy to receive it. We also need lightly used plastic shopping bags, brown paper grocery bags, 2026 calendars, greeting cards, and pens and pencils. Thanks to all who contribute to or volunteer at the pantry. We could not do this without you!

### **Our Christmas program, *Look for the Light*, needs you!**

Our beloved live nativity Christmas program, *Look for the Light*, needs intergenerational participants if it's going to take place on **Sunday, December 14th, 2025**. People of all ages, talents, and skills are welcome to join our children and youth as we share the story of Jesus' birth in word, song, and animal wrangling. Multiple group rehearsals will take place at various times to accommodate people's busy schedules, and if you can't make any of the scheduled rehearsals, Kate will meet with anybody at any time who would like to participate. If singing, adults who join should plan to attend a minimum of 2 rehearsals. If reading or wrangling animals only, one meeting with Kate should suffice. We hope many of you decide to don a costume and join us in this beloved HCLC tradition.

**Because a decision about whether or not the program proceeds needs to be made by October 1, please contact Kate throughout August and September to let her know if you will be joining us. Without your participation, the program will be canceled.**

Please note: As always, youth participants will receive priority as readers and soloists.

Texting or emailing Kate is best: 262.498.7593 [kpotterbarrow@gmail.com](mailto:kpotterbarrow@gmail.com)

### **Giving With Tithely**

Many of our members have decided giving through [tithely.ly](https://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 our financial administrator Keri at [keri.hclc@gmail.com](mailto:keri.hclc@gmail.com).



### **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](mailto: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!**

### **Upcoming Worship, Education , Fellowship, and Service Opportunities**

Sunday, September 21 - 9:30 Worship and Sunday School

Monday, September 22 - 12:30 Food Pantry

Tuesday, September 23 - 1:00 Quilters

Wednesday, September 24 - 4:00 - 6:00 Diaper Ministry

Friday, September 26 - 12:30 Food Pantry

Sunday, September 28 - 9:30 Worship and Sunday School

Monday, September 29 - 12:30 Food Pantry

Friday, October 3 - 12:30 Food Pantry

Sunday, October 5 - 9:30 Worship and Sunday School

10:30 2nd - 5th Grade Youth Group

Monday, October 6 - 10:00 Monday Morning Bible Study

12:30 Food Pantry

Thursday, October 9 - 10:00 Birthday Club

Friday, October 10 - 9:00 Men's Group

12:30 Food Pantry

### **My Own Hands - Ben Harper**

I can change the world  
With my own two hands  
Make it a better place  
With my own two hands  
With my own  
With my own two hands

I can make peace on earth  
With my own two hands  
I can clean up the earth  
With my own two hands  
I can reach out to you  
With my own  
With my own two hands

I'm going to make it a brighter place  
With my own two hands  
I'm going to make it a safer place  
With my own two hands  
I'm going to help the human race  
With my own two hands  
With my own  
With my own two hands

I can hold you with my own two hands  
I can comfort you  
With my own two hands  
But you've got to use  
Use your own two hands  
Use your own  
Use your own two hands

Use your own, use your own hands  
With our own, with our own two hands  
With my own, with my own two hands

### **Office Hours**

The office is open Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### **Finance Update**

#### **August 2025 Finance Numbers**

**Revenue: \$39,816.90**

**Expense: \$51,675.61**

**Net Income: \$(11,858.71)**

#### **Year to Date Finance Numbers**

**Revenue: \$376,514.49**

**Expense: \$395,936.01**

**Net Income: \$(19,421.52)**

### **Holy Communion Church Council**

Joleen Carlson, president, Gary Wood, vice president, Laurie Knudson, secretary, Kylee Albright, treasurer, Rose Adamski, Bob Larsen, David Knudson, Rebecca Mason, and Polly Timmerman.

***In person attendance on Sunday, September 14, 2025 - 116 Households watching online - 25***