

Sunday, May 3, 2026
The Fifth Sunday of Easter

**"And if I go
and prepare a place for you,
I will come again
and will take you to myself,**



**so that where I am,
there you may be also."**

John 14:3, NRSV

Sharing the Light!

Holy Communion Lutheran Church
A community called to Worship, Learn, Love, and Serve
2000 West Sixth St. Racine, WI 53405

Special thanks to greeter Lori Neu, assisting minister Laura Jansen, lector Sheri Krenzke, communion assistants Sheri Krenzke and Sawyer Krenzke, ushers Jim Buhler, Dave Barlament, Todd Jansen, Tim Krikau, and Gary Wee, altar guild Sandy Ivanoski, Kay Krause, Lori Neu, Lindsay Newton, and Joni Reske, AV technician Kathy Berg, council person in charge Polly Timmerman, and Gregory Berg and the Senior Choir for sharing their time and talent with us this morning.

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

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb!

Amen.

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:

morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us (*local waters may be named*).

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness

who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.

Amen.

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain



1 Come, you faith-ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!
2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst his pris - on,
3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,
4 For to - day a - mong the twelve Christ ap - peared, be - stow - ing
5 Al - le - lu - ia! Now we cry to our King im - mor - tal,



God has brought his Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness,
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris - en;
with the roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren - der;
his deep peace, which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.
who, tri - um - phant, burst the bars of the tomb's dark por - tal.



loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters,
all the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing
comes to glad - den faith-ful hearts which with true af - fec - tion
Neith - er could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,
Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!



led them with un - moist-ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
from his light, to whom is giv'n laud and praise un - dy - ing.
wel-come in un - wea - ried strain Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!
nor the watch - ers, nor the seal, hold him as a mor - tal.
God has brought his Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness!

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: GAUDEAMUS PARITER, Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547

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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**

S 138

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

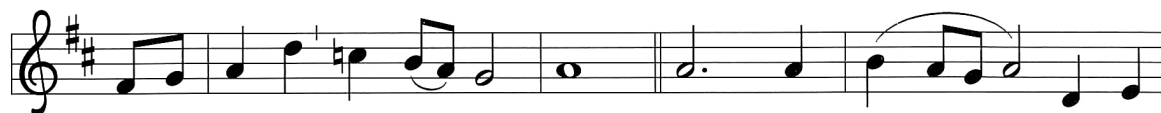
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



Final refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Almighty God,

your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life.

Give us grace to love one another,

to follow in the way of his commandments,

and to share his risen life with all the world,

for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Lisa Lequia

NOISY OFFERING

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MAY GO TO CHOIR

FIRST READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵ like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,”

⁸ and

“A stone that makes them stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

¹ In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

² **Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.**

³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

⁴ **Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.**

⁵ Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

¹⁵ **My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.**

¹⁶ Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.”

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

S 142a

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***GOSPEL: John 14: 1-14**

The holy gospel according to John, the fourteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

The gospel of the Lord.

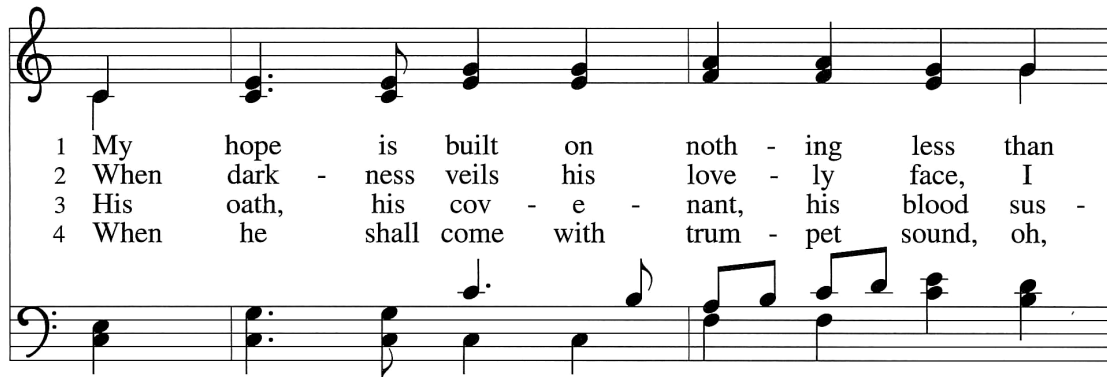
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Laura Fladten

CHILDREN RETURN TO WORSHIP

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

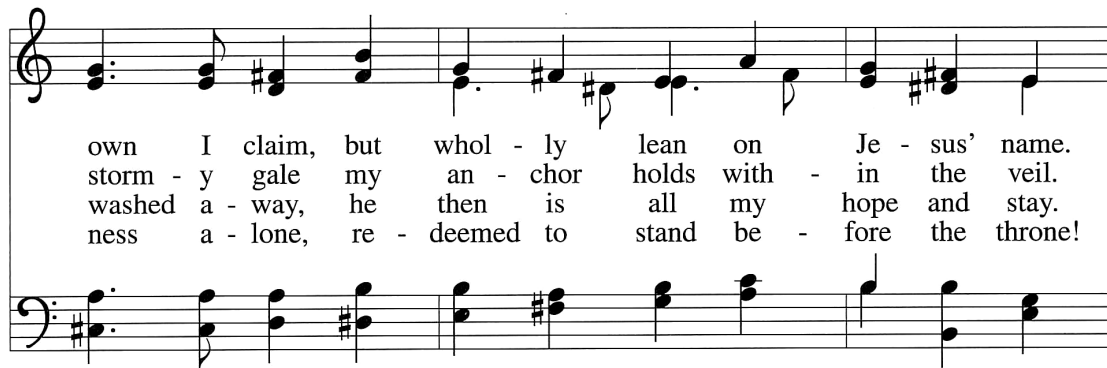
597



1 My hope is built on nothing less than
2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -
4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,

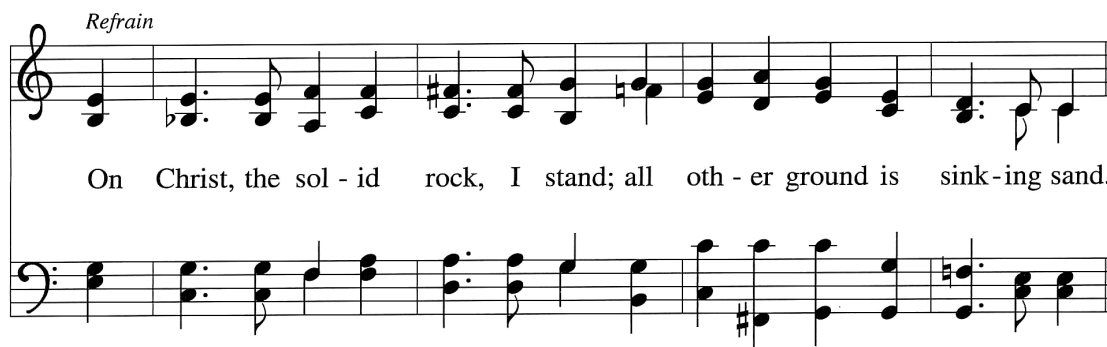


Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my
rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are
may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -



own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
storm - y gale, my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.
ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.
Music: John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

MELITA
888888

***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, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

MEAL

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it in heaven.
Give us this day is 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.

DISRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD

S 146

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Faith of Our Fathers

813

- 1 Faith of our fathers, living still
in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword.
Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy
whene'er we hear that glorious word.
Faith of our fathers, holy faith,
we will be true to you till death.
- 2 Faith of our mothers, daring faith,
your work for Christ is love revealed,
spreading God's word from pole to pole,
making love known and freedom real.
Faith of our mothers, holy faith,
we will be true to you till death.
- 3 Faith of our sisters, brothers too,
who still must bear oppression's might,
raising on high, in prisons dark,
the cross of Christ still burning bright.
Faith for today, O living faith,
we will be true to you till death.
- 4 Faith born of God, oh, call us yet,
bind us with all who follow you,
sharing the struggle of your cross
until the world is made anew.
Faith born of God, O living faith,
we will be true to you till death.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, st. 1, alt.; Joseph R. Alfred, b. 1947, sts. 2–4
Text sts. 2–4 © Joseph R. Alfred

ST. CATHERINE
8 8 8 8 8 8

***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

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

184



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray. (brief silence)

God, You are the Strong Rock upon which your church is built. Help us to remain true to the call of your Gospel - to be followers of Your Holy Word rather than the strident voices of this world - to be extravagant in our love and compassion - to be committed to living out our faith in thought, word, and deed - to be a place where all are welcome and respected - and to give all honor and glory to You, for it is You who make all things possible. Lord in your mercy,

HEAR OUR PRAYER.

God, You are the Strong Rock upon which we must anchor our lives. Guide us away from materialism and greed - and remind us of what matters most in life, so that we may claim those blessings that bring true and lasting satisfaction. Help us to see the richness of simplicity, the benefit of generosity, the glory of humility, and the strength of gentleness. Show us how we can walk humbly as your children. Lord in your mercy,

HEAR OUR PRAYER.

God, You are the Strong Rock to which we cling when we are assailed by life's most difficult storms. Give us hope when we are tempted to despair. Give us courage when we are tempted to yield to fear. Show us the path forward to a safer and more peaceful world. And bring help and encouragement to all who are weighed down by difficult burdens of discouragement, fatigue, illness, injury, addiction or sorrow. We pray for... May they know Your sustaining and healing presence. Lord in your mercy,

HEAR OUR PRAYER.

God, You are the Strong Rock that gives us a sense of strength and stability when the world seems to be rocked by relentless, bewildering change. Give us the assurance we need to navigate this complex and challenging world, knowing that we are never alone - and that in You we find all that we truly need. And help us, in all that we say and do, to love each other as You have first loved us. Lord in your mercy,

HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Hear these spoken prayers and the unspoken prayers of our hearts, that we may know your grace and mercy, made perfect in Christ Jesus, our Risen Lord and Savior.

AMEN.

SPECIAL MUSIC *“Benediction Song”* Gary Wee (arr. GB) **Senior Choir**

*The Lord bless you and keep you, be with you this day.
May He guide you in all that you think, do and say.
The Lord bless you and keep you this day.
May the light of His face shine upon you,
may His grace and countenance be yours too.
May He look upon you with favor and give you peace.
Amen.*

BLESSING

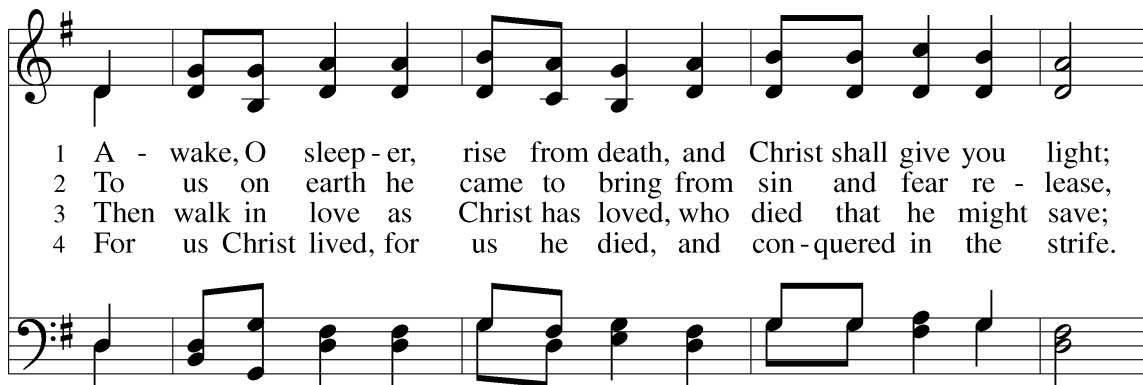
God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,

✠ bless you now and forever.

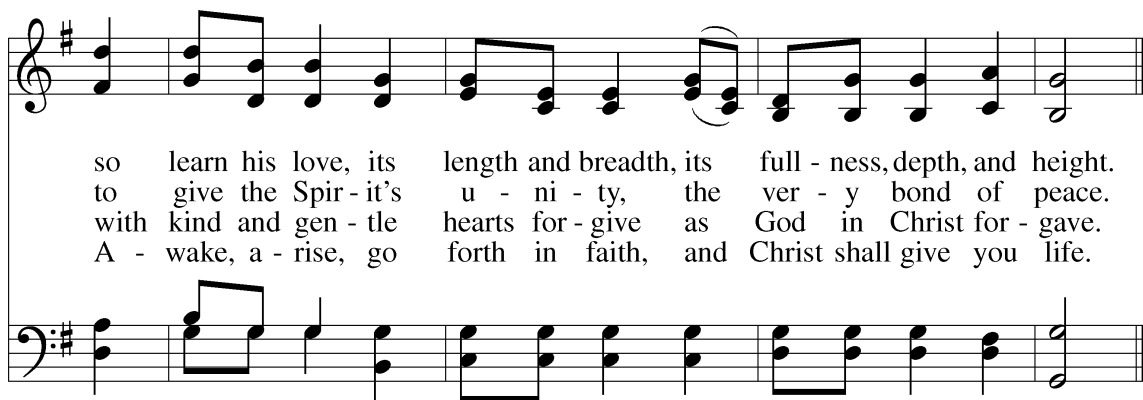
Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #745 (*With One Voice Hymnal*)

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death



1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
3 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
4 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.



so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984
Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Please join us in the lounge for coffee and fellowship.



Announcements

Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar this morning were given to the glory of God and in thanks for the many blessings in our lives.

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 the wafer in 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.

New Service Next Sunday

On May 10th we will be celebrating the refurbished, spit-polished and gorgeous windows that embrace our sanctuary. Bright colors are the order of the day and the Worship and Music Committee would love to see everyone wearing outfits that boast colors that match our sanctuary windows! Jim Buhler and Gregg Albright, we're counting on you to show us how it's done! The service theme is LIGHT and it will feature uplifting scriptures, messages, and joyous hymns which will be led by our kids and the senior choir. Please mark your calendars now and be sure to be in attendance on Sunday, May 10th. Let your light shine - and help HCLC's light shine too!

Diaper Ministry

Sincere thanks to Linda Godson for sponsoring the May Diaper Depot delivery! Your support of the diaper ministry allows us to help an average of 52 clients and to distribute over 1,100 diapers each time we are open! Our next distribution dates are May 13 th from 11AM – 1PM and May 27 th from 4 – 6 PM. Contact Kylee Albright kygregg@mac.com or Amy Larsen amylarsen2406@att.net with questions or to volunteer.

May Ketchup Club

On Tuesday, May 5th the Ketchup Club will meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Mrs. Rivers Bakery and Smokehouse, 9604 Durand Ave. These casual get-togethers are a nice way to catch up with old friends and make some new ones! If you know you will be there, let us know so we can get the right size table. You can contact Pastor Laura, pastorlaura.hclc@gmail.com, or the office, office.hclc@gmail.com. If you suddenly find yourself free, come join us and we'll happily make some room!

Men's Group Meeting May 8th

All men are invited to meet in the lounge on Friday, May 8th at 9:00 a.m. for the Men's Group. Contact Pastor Mark if you have any questions.

Birthday Club

If you were born in May please come to the lounge on Thursday, May 14th at 10:00 a.m. to enjoy some conversation, a birthday donut and a cup of coffee with the pastors.

Graduate Recognition May 31st

We will be honoring our graduates during worship on Sunday, May 31st. If you or someone in your family is graduating from high school, college, or a technical program, please send us their picture, what school they are graduating from, the degree earned, their plan for the future, and let us know if they will be able to attend the service. The graduate information will be printed in the bulletin and the June newsletter. Please get the information to the office (office.hclc@gmail.com) by Wednesday, May 20th for inclusion in the bulletin and newsletter.

Holy Communion Church Council

President Joleen Carlson president, Vice President Gary Wood, Secretary Laurie Knudson, Treasurer Kylee Albright, Members at large Rose Adamski, Steve Barootian, David Knudson, Rebecca Mason, and Polly Timmerman

In-person attendance Sunday, April 26, 2026 - 108 Households viewing online - 32

Book Club

For May, the book club is meeting again at Julie Burton's home. This time we will be discussing the book The Lion Women of Tehran by Marjan Kamali. In the 1950's, Ellie lives in grand comfort until the untimely death of her father. Ellie and her mother are forced to move to a tiny home. Luckily, on the first day of school, Ellie meets Homa, a brave and irrepressible spirit. The girls spend lots of time together and dream of becoming "lion women". Together again years later, the young women come of age and pursue their own goals for a meaningful future. However, the political turmoil in Iran builds to a breaking point and changes the future for both the girls. We are meeting on May 13th, from 10:00 to 11:30. Julie's home is at 136 Steeplechase Drive. Please call her at 262-639-5914, if you plan to attend.

Third Tuesday Bible Study

May 19th the study of the book of Acts will meet at the home of Julie Burton (136 Steeplechase Drive). The discussion will focus on Acts 13:4 to Acts 14:19-20 on pages 115 to 128 in William Barclay. This is an exciting awareness of the spread of the Christian faith from Cyprus north of Jerusalem to Antioch and even farther north. But there were Jews so determined to stop them, they came and stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city. The courage of Paul and Barnabas is amazing as they travel from city to city describing Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophets. Bring a Bible to enrich our discussion.

Lounge Tree of Members Mural

Several years ago a large "Tree of Members" was painted on the wall across from the lounge. We would like to fill the tree with leaves and have them blowing down the wall towards the sanctuary, filled with the names of our Holy Communion family, both current and past members. You can purchase a leaf for \$10. There are forms on the table in the back of the sanctuary, the welcome center, and the office. Return your completed forms with your payment to the office or place it in the offering plate.

How Can We Pray For You?

The HCLC prayer team wants to pray for you! Share your joy, sorrows, and concerns for your brothers and sisters in Christ will hold you in prayer. There is power and blessing in praying for each other. We can add your request to our weekly prayer chain emails and/or to our prayer list read on Sunday mornings. Fill out the lavender card in your pew or send you prayer requests to amylarsen2406@att.net or the office, office.hclc@gmail.com. For confidentiality reason we only use first names in our Sunday prayers and our prayer emails.

Upcoming Worship, Education, Fellowship, and Service Opportunities

Sunday, May 3 - 9:30 Worship/Sunday School
10:30 2nd - 5th Grade Youth Group
Monday, May 4 - 10:00 Monday Morning Bible Study
12:30 Food Pantry
Tuesday, May 5 - 11:30 Ketchup Club
Friday, May 8 - 10:00 Men's Group
12:30 Food Pantry
Sunday, May 10 - 9:30 Worship/Sunday School
Monday, May 11 - 10:00 Monday Morning Bible Study
12:30 Food Pantry
Tuesday, May 12 - 1:00 Quilters
Wednesday, May 13 - 10:00 Third Tuesday Bible Study
11:00 - 1:00 Diaper Ministry
Thursday, May 14 - 10:00 Birthday Club
Friday, May 15 - 12:30 Food Pantry

Finance Update

March Finance Numbers
Revenue: \$50,707.62
Expense: \$47,185.20
Net Income: \$3,522.42

Year to Date Finance Numbers
Revenue: \$163,904.77
Expense: \$168,459.75
Net Income: \$(4554.98)

Office Hours

The office hours are 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.