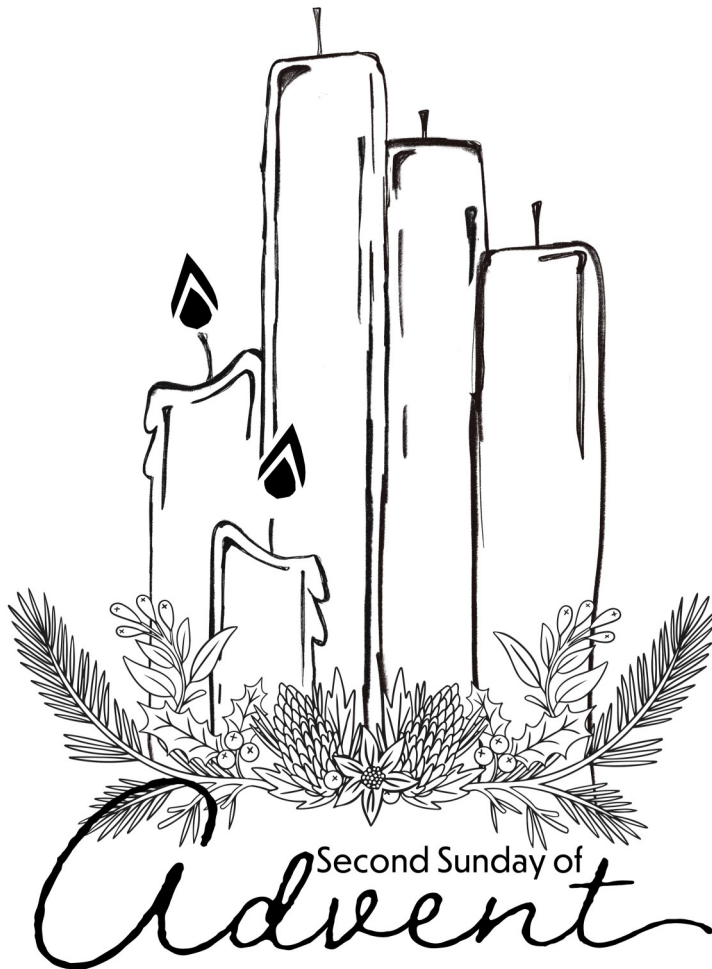


**Sunday, December 7, 2025**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**



***Sharing the Light!***

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

*Thanks to greeter Christine Monreal, assisting minister and lector Gary Wee, communion assistant Joni Reske, audio-visual technician Alison Ferrentino, altar guild Susan Barbee, Val Conner, and Barb Salvo, ushers David Krueger, Steve Barootian, Gary Lequia, and Ed Wosilait, coffee fellowship Joellen Childs, council person in charge Rose Adamski, the Senior Choir, Gregory Berg, and organist Randy Fischer for sharing their time and talent with us this morning.*

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

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP “We Wait For You” (GB) Senior Choir**  
(see the lyrics on the back page of the bulletin)

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
whose home is heaven and earth,  
whose salvation is sure.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of one another.

Long-expected God,  
we confess that we look to ourselves  
for the peace and security only you can provide.  
We reach for swords and spears,  
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.  
We become impatient while waiting  
and weary of keeping awake.  
Free us from self-reliance,  
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.  
Increase our trust in God’s timing,  
and awaken us to your advent among us,  
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.  
**Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve,  
but according to God’s own righteousness.

✠ You are freed and forgiven,  
saved by grace,  
and ready to welcome the Savior.  
**Amen.**

\*GATHERNG SONG

## Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men  
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and in her  
3 Now let all the heav'ns a - dore you, and saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.  
heart new joy is spring - ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom,  
an - gels sing be - fore you. The harps and cym-bals all u - nite.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the  
for her Lord comes down all glo - rious, the strong in  
Of one pearl each shin - ing por - tal, where, dwell - ing



thrill - ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid - ens! Night is past.  
grace, in truth vic - to - rious. Her star is ris'n; her light is come.  
with the choir im - mor - tal, we gath - er round your daz - zling light.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"  
Oh, come, you Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.  
No eye has seen, no ear has yet been trained to hear,



Al - le - lu - ia! Pre - pare your - selves to meet the  
Sing ho - san - na! We go un - til the halls we  
what joy is ours! Cre - scen - dos rise; your halls re -



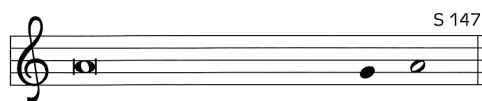
Lord, whose light has stirred the wait - ing guard.  
view where you have bid us dine with you.  
sound; ho - san - nas blend in cos - mic sound.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, alt.  
Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

## 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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



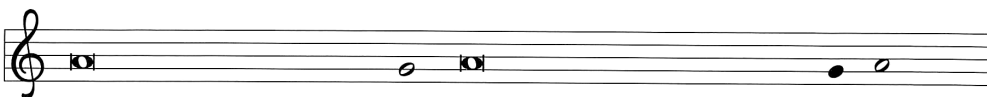
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



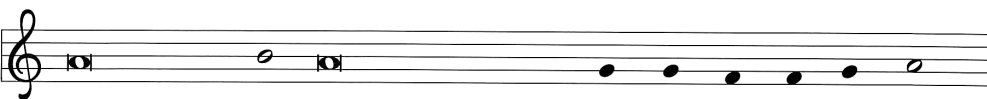
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

# \*HYMN OF PRAISE

*Refrain*

Assisting minister

S 149



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

All



1 Wor-ty is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



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



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



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

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



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

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

Let us pray.

**Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH    Laura, Todd, and Carrie Jansen**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.

John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way  
for the kingdom of heaven is near.

Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.

Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit,  
that we may be a light shining in the darkness  
welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us,  
for he is our light and our salvation.

Blessed be God forever.

**Amen.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE    Lisa Lequia**

## **NOISY OFFERING**

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

## **WORD**

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5**

<sup>1</sup> The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> In days to come  
the mountain of the LORD's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.

<sup>3</sup> Many peoples shall come and say,  
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob,  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into plowshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;  
neither shall they learn war any more.

<sup>5</sup> O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the LORD!

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 122

- <sup>1</sup> I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”
- <sup>2</sup> **Now our feet are standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**
- <sup>3</sup> Jerusalem is built as a city  
that is at unity with itself;
- <sup>4</sup> **to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,  
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**
- <sup>5</sup> For there are the thrones of judgment,  
the thrones of the house of David.
- <sup>6</sup> **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:  
“May they prosper who love you.**
- <sup>7</sup> Peace be within your walls  
and quietness within your towers.
- <sup>8</sup> **For the sake of my kindred and companions,  
I pray for your prosperity.**
- <sup>9</sup> Because of the house of the LORD our God,  
I will seek to do you good.”

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

S 151a

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

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

## \*GOSPEL: MATTHEW 24:36-44

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples,]<sup>36</sup> “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.<sup>37</sup> For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.<sup>38</sup> For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark,<sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man.<sup>40</sup> Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left.<sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left.<sup>42</sup> Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.<sup>43</sup> But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.<sup>44</sup> Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON      Pastor Mark Doidge**

### 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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**\*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.**

**MEAL**

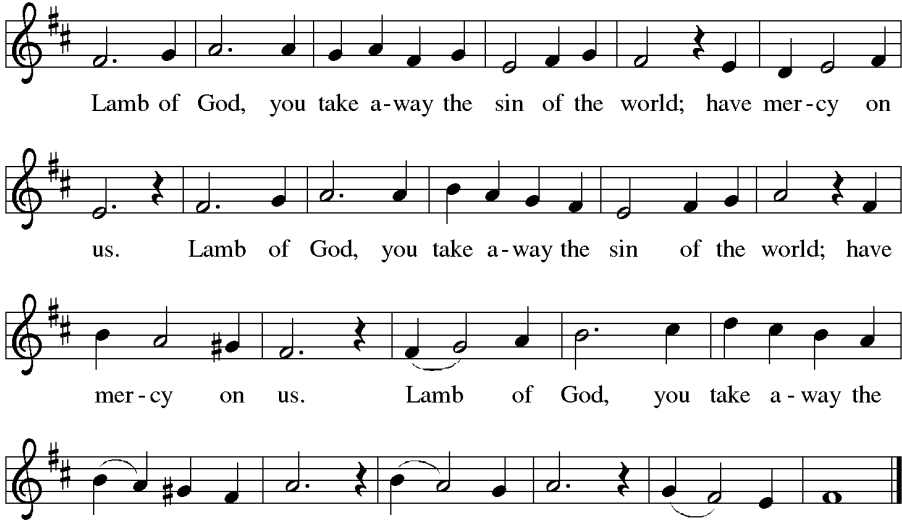
**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**\*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.**

**DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

## COMMUNION SONG



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, grant us 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.**

## 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.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Friends in Christ, let us come before God with quiet and humble hearts, that we may know God's presence and experience God's abundant mercy and grace.

(brief silence)

God, you are the Messiah for which we wait. Open our eyes, ears and hearts to receive you in every way that you make yourself known to us. God our Messiah,

**HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

God, you are the Rock upon which your church - and all our earthly endeavors - must be built. Bless Pastor Laura, Pastor Mark, and pastors everywhere to proclaim your Word even as John once proclaimed 'prepare the way of the Lord.' God our Rock,

**HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

God, you are the Redeemer, and your transformative love can reshape us and our world. Give us wisdom to discern what must be discarded in our lives and what new possibilities should be embraced so that the crooked ways may be made straight and the rough places made plain. God our Redeemer,

**HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

God, you are the Father of us all, and we owe our very existence to you. Bless the children of this congregation that they may know how much they are loved and cherished. Guide them so that they may encounter you in new and exciting ways. We thank you for Lisa, Patrick, Kate, and all others who are lovingly guiding our young people in the paths of faith. God our Father,

**HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

God, you are the Great Healer, and there is no hurt or burden in mind, body or spirit that is not within reach of your compassion and grace. Extend your gifts of healing and hope to all for whom we feel special concern today ... especially (names). Bless them and bless those who care for them. God our Healer,

**HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

God, you are our Hope. Amidst all that is bewildering or frightening in our lives and in our world, remain our source of comfort and constancy. Help us look to you for all that we need, even at life's end. God our Hope,

**HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Hear these spoken prayers and the unspoken prayers of our hearts and receive them with the grace and mercy made perfect in Christ Jesus, our Messiah and Savior.

**AMEN.**

## **BLESSING**

May God who comes among us,

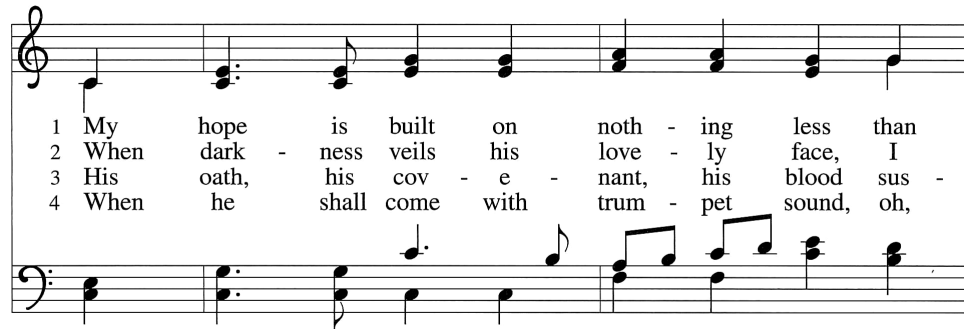
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,

grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,  
and good news to share today and always.

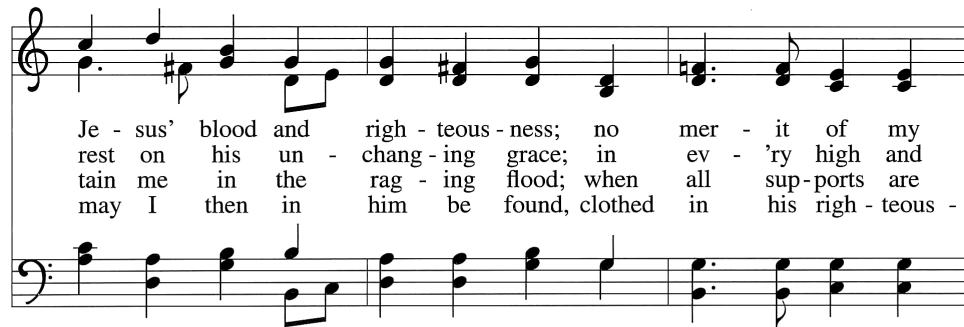
**Amen.**

# My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

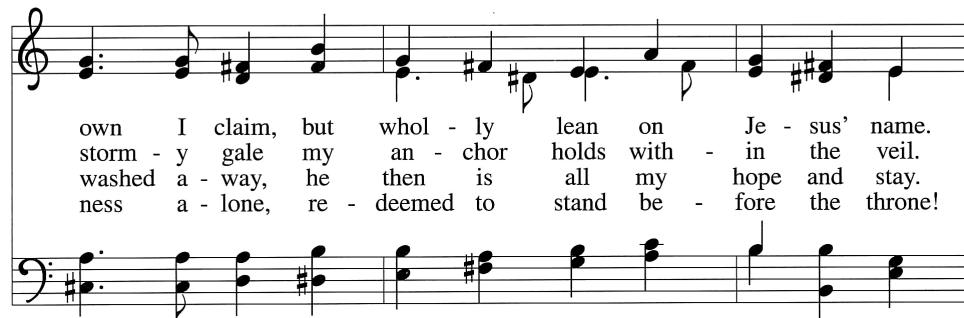
597



1 My hope is built on noth - ing 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,

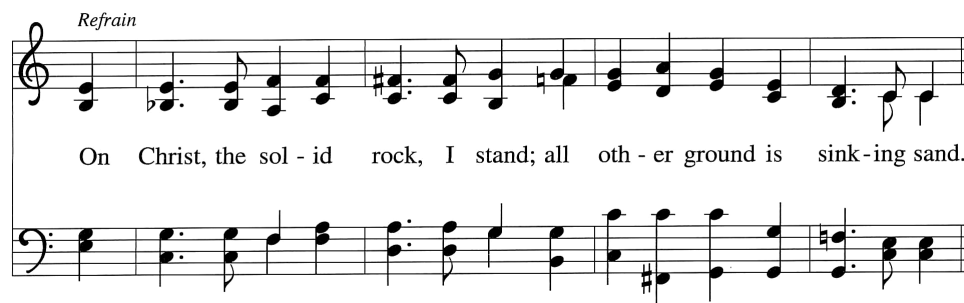


Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my  
rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and  
tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are  
may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -



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

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## \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.  
Thanks be to God.

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POSTLUDE Randy Fischer, organist

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



## **Announcements**

### **Altar Flowers**

The flowers on the altar this morning were given in memory of Mary Larsen on her birthday, by Amy Larsen and Bob & Karen Larsen, and in memory of Andrew Carlson, by Eunice 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 coffee, a treat, and conversation.

### **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 prefer to take communion in your pew, there are individual wafer/juice cups available on the tables in the back of the sanctuary.

### **Food Pantry**

Sincere thanks to all who contributed food and money to the pantry in November. In the two days before Thanksgiving they served 169 families, a total of 614 people. The food pantry is asking for donations of 15 oz. cans of pork & beans, jelly, macaroni & cheese, 1 lb. egg noodles, average size boxes of cereal, and 10 oz. cans of tomato soup. We can also use your clean, lightly used plastic shopping bags and large brown paper bags. If you have cookbooks, 2026 calendars, greeting cards, or pens and pencils you do not need, the pantry clients are happy to get them. Thank you all for your contributions. We would not be able to continue this ministry without a lot of help.

### **December Birthday Club**

If you have a December birthday, please come join us in the lounge at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 11th. We will celebrate with birthday donuts, coffee, and conversation!

### **Men's Group**

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

### **Diaper Ministry**

We give thanks to the Funk family who continue to sponsor Diaper Depot delivery in memory of Wayne & Jan Sotona. Our next distribution is December 10th from 11AM – 1PM. Please consider supporting our ministry with a donation or as a volunteer. Contact Kylee Albright, [kygregg@mac.com](mailto:kygregg@mac.com), or Amy Larsen, [amylarsen2406@att.net](mailto:amylarsen2406@att.net).

### **Let's Go Caroling!**

Calling young and old and everyone in between to join us on Sunday, December 21st to go Christmas Caroling. We'll gather together following worship and carpool to our beloved member's homes. Please sign up on Pastor Laura's door if you want to join us!

**In-person attendance on Sunday, November 23 - 148   Household units attending online - 20**

# Look For The Light Christmas Program

Sunday, December 14th at 9:30 a.m.

*Come hear the beautiful story of Jesus' birth. Our sanctuary will be transformed into a humble manger in Bethlehem. There the sheep, goats, donkey, and other animals will join our children, youth, and choirs as they share this wonderful story through word and song!*

## **Third Tuesday Bible Study**

THIRD TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY will meet December 16th at the home of Julie Burton (136 Steeplechase Drive) to discuss Acts 16:1 to 17:53 using the study guide by William Barclay. The early Christians faced persecution primarily from the Jewish leaders. Ironically, they had their own struggles among themselves. In this section of Acts, Stephen stands before the Jewish high council and reminds them of their own history: "For so persecuted the prophets before you."

## **Book Club Meets December 10th**

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

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

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

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

## **Blankets for the Hospitality Center**

Do you have gently used blankets or warm adult coats you no longer need? We are collecting them to bring to the Hospitality Center, where they will be given away during our cold winter months. Items can be dropped off in the narthex or the church office.

## **Altar Flowers for 2026**

Altar flower dates are open for 2026. Each vase will cost \$28.00 this year and we have room for two vases each week. There are forms in the back of the sanctuary and in the welcome center and office. Right now we have no one signed up for January, February, or March and a lot of other dates available! Get your reservation in today!

## **Holy Communion Church Council**

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

### **Belle City Brassworks Concert at HCLC on December 17th**

Belle City Brassworks, Racine's favorite brass band since 1988, will perform "Holiday Classics" concerts filled with Christmas cheer on Wednesday, Dec. 10 at Living Faith Church, 2915 Wright Ave., and Wednesday, Dec. 17 at Holy Communion Lutheran Church, 2000 W. 6th St. Both concerts begin at 7 p.m.

The group of 47 experienced brass musicians, led by music director Doug Johnson, will delight audiences with holiday favorites such as "Christmas Fanfare: Christians Awake," "Yule Dance," "Carol of the Shepherds," "An Australian Christmas," "Four Dances from 'The Nutcracker,'" "Sleigh Ride," "A Christmas Song," along with "Christmas Sing A Long" and more.

Admission to the concerts is free. There will be a free will offering taken during intermission.

### **Sweet Melody Strings Christmas Concert on December 22**

Join us in the sanctuary at 10 a.m. on Monday Dec. 22 for a Christmas program by Sweet Melody Strings. HCLC members Rondi Jenkins, Elaine Lewis and Evie Belland are in this talented group playing hammered dulcimers, guitars, and bass ukulele. All are welcome to enjoy some wonderful holiday music at this free concert! .

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

Sunday, December 7 - 9:30 Worship/Sunday School  
1:00 - 3:00 Diaper Ministry Christmas Party  
Monday, December 8 - 10:00 Monday Morning Bible Study  
12:30 Food Pantry  
Tuesday, December 9 - 1:00 Quilters  
Wednesday, December 10 - 10:00 Book Club  
11:00 - 1:00 Diaper Ministry  
Thursday, December 11 - 10:00 Birthday Club  
Friday, December 12 - 9:00 Men's Group  
12:30 Food Pantry  
Saturday, December 13 - 9:00 Christmas Program Rehearsal  
Sunday, December 14 - 9:30 Look For The Light Christmas Program  
Monday, December 15 - 10:00 Bible Study  
12:30 Food Pantry  
Tuesday, December 16 - 10:00 Third Tuesday Bible Study  
Wednesday, December 17 - 7:00 Belle City Brassworks Concert  
Friday, December 19 - 12:30 Food Pantry  
Sunday, December 21 - 9:30 Worship  
10:30 Caroling  
Monday, December 22 - 10:00 Sweet Melodies Christmas Concert  
12:30 Food Pantry  
Wednesday, December 24 - Office Closed  
4:00 Christmas Eve Worship  
10:30 Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship  
Thursday, December 25 - Office Closed  
Friday, December 26 - Office Closed  
Food Pantry Closed  
Sunday, December 28 - 9:30 Worship  
Monday, December 29 - 12:30 Worship

### **Office Hours**

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

### **Finance Update**

#### **October Finance Numbers**

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

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

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

## **"We Wait For You" (GB)**

**Like a desert waits for rain, longing to be lush again,  
fertile ground for fruit and grain - We wait for you.**

**Like a bird without a song- like a journey far too long-  
a stranger wanting to belong- We wait for you.**

**Come, Come, Come Emmanuel.**

**Like a man bent down in pain - bound by harsh, unyielding chains-  
longing just to dance again- We wait for you.**

**Like a seed beneath a stone- a widow who feels all alone  
forgotten gardens overgrown - We wait for you..**

**Come, Come, Come Emmanuel**

### **Look For The Light Rehearsal Saturday, December 13th at 9:00 a.m.**

The final rehearsal for the Christmas program will be on Saturday morning, from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. If you are donating cookies for the reception after the program, you can bring them to church on Saturday and leave them in the last pew.



## **Worship Services in December**

**Sunday, December 14 - 9:30 a.m.**  
**Look For The Light Christmas Program**

**Sunday, December 21 - 9:30 a.m.**  
**The Third Sunday of Advent**

**Wednesday, December 24 - 4:00 p.m.**  
**Christmas Eve worship**

**Wednesday, December 24 - 10:30 p.m.**  
**Candlelight Christmas Eve worship**

**Sunday, December 28 - 9:30 a.m.**  
**A Service of Lessons and Carols**