

Sunday, September 14, 2025
The Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost



Sharing the Light!

Holy Communion Lutheran Church
2000 West Sixth Street Racine, Wisconsin 53405
A community called to Worship, Learn, Love, and Serve

We Are Called
A Contemporary Worship Service

Special thanks to greeter Joni Reske, assisting minister Eleanor Mason, lector Lynn Sinclair, communion assistant Roger Degerman, audio-visual technicians Kylee Albright and Sawyer Krenzke, ushers David Krueger, Steve Barootian, Gary Lequia, Ed Wosilait, altar guild Sandy Ivanoski, Kay Krause, Lori Neu, Lindsey Newton, Joni Reske, councilperson in charge Rebecca Mason, and musicians Kate Potter Barrow, Gregg Albright and Gregory Berg for sharing their time and talent with us today.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

A.M.: What does the Lord require of us?

ALL: To do justice

A.M.: What does the Lord require of us?

All: To love kindness

A.M.: What does the Lord require of us?

All: To walk humbly with our God

A.M.: We come to learn, to praise, to pray;

All: We come to worship our God.

All Are Welcome

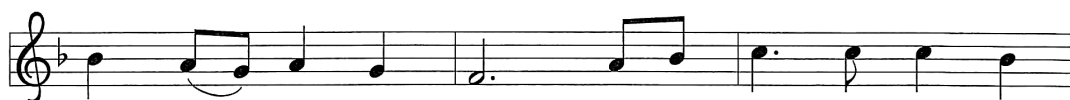
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1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
 strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 claim the faith of Je - sus:
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 end to fear and dan - ger:
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: Marty Haugen
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TWO OAKS
 96 86 87 10 and refrain

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CONFESSION OF SINS:

P. In the presence of God, who knows our hearts and minds, let us confess our sin:

O Holy and loving God,

We acknowledge to you, to ourselves, and to one another that we're not what you have called us to be. We have not always stood by our faith, shared our hope, or reached out with love. We have done unkind and shameful deeds, and we have left undone, deeds which could have made a difference in the lives of those around us. Too often, we have failed to speak and act for peace, justice, and kindness in our world.

Have mercy upon our repentance, forgive our sin, and change our lives. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and loved by God. Go into the world with changed hearts and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ! **Amen.**

GREETING:

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

All: And also with you.

**SONG: Won't You Stand Up

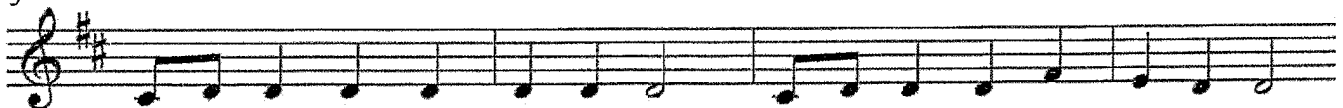
Solo: All the lonely people crying, it could change if we just get started.
Lift the darkness, light a fire for the silent and the brokenhearted.

Refrain:



Won't you stand up, stand up, stand up. Won't you stand up and make a choice.

5



Won't you stand up, stand up, stand up. Won't you stand up and use your voice.

Solo: With the comfort, there's a healing, high above the pain and sorrow.
Change is coming, can you feel it? Calling us into a new tomorrow! **Refrain:**

Solo: When the walls fall all around you, when your hope has turned to dust.
Let the sound of love surround you, beat like God's heart in each of us! **Refrain:**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A.M.: Oh God who breaks barriers down and welcomes all:

All: You invite us to walk humbly by your side. You call us to act with justice. By your works, you inspire us to serve one another. We pray that you will give us the courage to make a difference in this world by treating people with respect and dignity, bringing healing to the broken, and living in your light so that those whose spirits are darkened by hopelessness and despair feel your shining presence and tender love.

A.M. And all God's children say:

All: Help us to walk humbly with you, O God! Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC *"There Was the Word" Ray Makeever*

(please see the lyrics on the back of your bulletin)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND BACKPACK BLESSING

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MAY GO TO CHOIR

WORD

FIRST READING: 1 Timothy 1: 12-17

¹² I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³ even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 51: 1-10

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

² **Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³ For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

⁵ Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶ **Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷ Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸ **Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Cantor: We hear the ancient words of God, whose son once on this earth did trod. So we today could sing out, Hallelujah. With open mind and joyful heart, we listen, then we'll do our part—to help our broken world shout Hallelujah.

REFRAIN: All:



GOSPEL: LUKE 15:1-10

The holy gospel according to Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸ “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

REFRAIN

SERMON Pastor Laura Fladten

CHILDREN AND YOUTH RETURN TO WORSHIP

We Are Called

720



1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the
 2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your . . mer - cy to all those in
 3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be



Lord! We are called to be light for the king - dom, to
 fear! We are called to be hope for the hope - less so
 one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each oth - er as



live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God.
 ha - tred and blind - ness . . . will be . . . no more.
 sis - ters and broth - ers . . . u - nit - ed in love.



We are called to act with jus - tice, we are called to



love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -



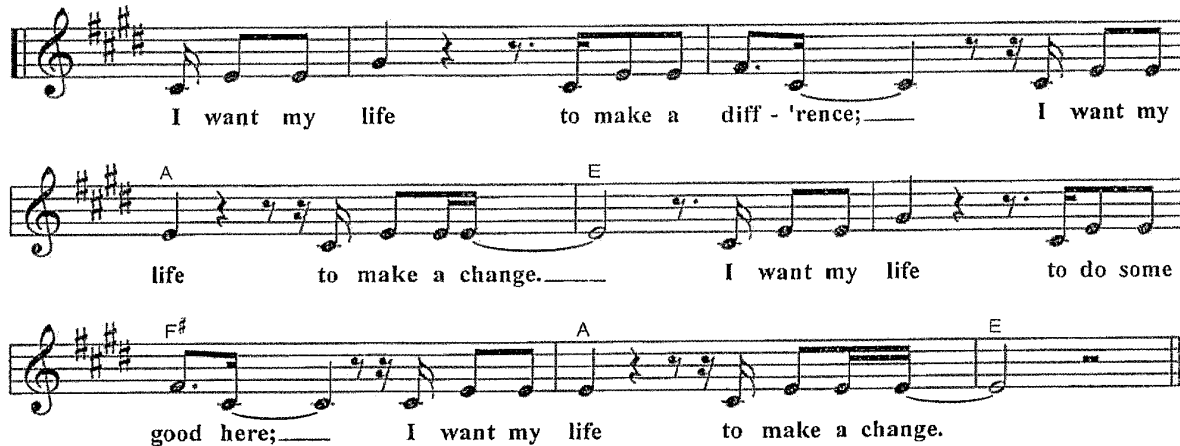
oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

MEAL

INVITATION SONG: Make A Difference - Rachel Kurtz

Pastor: You gave your life to make a difference. You gave your life to make a change.
You welcomed all to your table. You're calling us to do the same.

Refrain:



Solo: Working side by side, no out or inside,
Together we can make that change.
With a few or many, with a lot or not any,
Together we can make that change! **Refrain:**

Solo: Crossing the great divide, Joy and peace will abide,
Together we can make that change.
Jesus is our peace, all fighting will cease
Together we can make that change! **Refrain:**

Words of Institution:

Solo: We're the citizens with the saints, We're the sunshine with the rain.
We're the joy with the pain. We're the change!
You healed the sick and fed the poor. You loved the prophet and ended war.
Through us you will do more, You're the change! **Refrain:**

Pastor: You gave your life to make a difference.
You gave your life to make a change.
You welcomed all to your table.
You're calling us to do the same.

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Our father in heaven.

your kingdom come,

your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

LAMB OF GOD: *This song begins with a solo. Please watch the song leader who will invite you to sing when all instruments join after the interlude.*

D A . bm A G

Lamb of God you take a-way the sin of the world - have mer-cy

A D D A bm

6 on - us. Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world

A G A D

12 have mer - cy on us.

D A bm G

Take a-way the ha-tred. Take a-way the chains - Take a way the

A G Asus D

6 hung-er take a-way - the pain 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 “Christ Be Our Light”

em bm em em C



1. Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for truth, -
2. Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the hearts that

7 D em am D em C A




we turn to you. Make us your own, — your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to
yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants to one an - oth - er, signs of your kind - dom

15 Dsus4 D G C G em G C D



see. ——— Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
come.

23 Dsus4 D G C G em am D C C G



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath - ered to - day.

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray. (brief silence)

Help us, Loving God, to live our lives with gratitude for all we have been given. Foster in us true thankfulness for all of life's blessings - especially the blessing of family and friends - teachers, mentors, coaches, pastors - everybody in our lives who helps us to be who You created us to be. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Help us, Loving God, to appreciate everything that makes each of us a uniquely beautiful and irreplaceable person - and help us to have that appreciation for others as well. Give us the courage to embrace who we are - and help us to be forgiving of ourselves and others, just as you are so quick to forgive. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Help us, Loving God, to admit when we are wrong to be unashamed about what we do not know and to embrace every opportunity we are given to learn about ourselves, each other, the world around us, and You. Remind us again and again, Loving God, that we do not have all of the answers- and that great joy is found in learning and growing. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Help us, Loving God, to be courageous in our calling to follow your Gospel of Love. Inspire us to defend the defenseless, embrace the lonely, uplift the struggling, feed the hungry, and work for greater justice for all people in all that we say and do. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Help us, Loving God, to look to You for comfort and strength when we face struggles of any kind. Grant Your help to those people we now name who are hurting in body, mind or spirit. <Names> Give them the gift of Your grace- and give that same grace to those who care for them. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Help us, Loving God, to set aside anger, frustration, resentment, bigotry, or anything else that draws us away from you and from each other. Nurture in us the gifts of kindness, patience, wisdom, and generosity, that we might taste the richest blessings life has to offer. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Hear these prayers, Loving God, that we might continue to experience the blessing of walking in your light, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

Congregation, please join in singing the choruses of Amens.

DISMISSAL

A.M.: Go in peace. Live by the spirit.

All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Please join us for ice cream and fellowship in the lounge.



Announcements

Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar were given in honor of Amelia Mason's birthday by her mom and dad, and in loving memory of George & Naomi Hahner, given by Heidi & Mark Komistra.

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 worship for a treat and a time of 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 the chalice of wine). There are also gluten free wafers and grape juice available in the center. Individual wafer/juice cups are available on the tables at the back of the sanctuary for those who prefer to commune in their pews.

Rally Day!

Today is Rally Day, the first day of Sunday School. The children will be dismissed from worship for choir and class. After worship come to the lounge where there will be ice cream for everyone!

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

Food Pantry

The food pantry is asking for donations of spaghetti noodles, cereal, pork & beans, peanut butter, side dishes, and spaghetti's. Please do not bring in any pet food. The number of clients served has been increasing while the food we receive from Racine County Food Bank and the government has been decreasing 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!

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 24th 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 Kylee Albright kygregg@mac.com or Amy Larsen amylarsen2406@att.net with any questions or if you would like to volunteer.

In-person attendance on Sunday, September 7, 2025 - 110 family units attending online - 20

Third Tuesday Bible Study

Third Tuesday Bible Study meets Tuesday, September 16th from 10:00 to 11:30 at the home of Julie Burton, 136 Steeplechase Drive. The discussion is from The Acts Of the Apostles using the study guide by William Barclay. The focus is on the fourth chapter of Acts, pages 41 to 49 where Peter and John heal a lame man. While 5000 were brought into Christianity, the ruling powers of the Jews forbid the disciples from talking about Jesus. But the convictions of these new Christians bonded them together as they put their focus on sharing what they had with one another. What a meaningful lesson for us today. Bring a bible and join in the discussion.

Monday Morning Bible Study

Monday Morning Bible/Book Study presents The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom For an Age of Outrage. *“How do we live compassionately in a time of violence and despair? What can we do with our private disappointments and the anger we feel in such an unjust world? In his most personal book yet, Richard Rohr turns to the writings of the Jewish prophets, revealing how some of the lesser-read books of the Bible offer us a crucial path forward today.”*

“As a pastor, I found this small book to be significant. I regularly struggle with knowing how to respond to our world—one within which I see horrible injustice and great evil, but also great beauty and grace. Rohr has provided a framework for me to be able to see beyond the rage, through tears, to the beauty. The journey from rage to sadness to hope is the goal.”

Looking forward to journeying through this book with you. Here is some important info...

- Kickoff Potluck Brunch on Monday, September 15th at 10:00AM
- Study begins on Monday, October 6th and ends on December 15th
- If you need a book, please sign up/pay in the church office by September 14th. The cost of the book is \$25 (this is through Amazon...you may be able to find something less expensive).
- If you have any questions, please see Pastor Laura.

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.



HCLC 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.

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!**

Finance Update

July 2025 Finance Numbers

Revenue: \$29,123.13

Expense: \$46,122.97

Net Income: \$(16,999.84)

Year to Date Finance Numbers

Revenue: \$336,697.59

Expense: \$344,120.51

Net Income: \$(7,422.92)

Before there was earth or water or sky,
before there was 'how' or 'where' or 'why',;
before there was woman, before there was man,
before there was 'no' and before there was 'oh yes, I can,'
there was the word.

Then came creation. Then came the fall.
Then came the flood and then came the call.
Then call the promise. Then came the land.
Then came captivity and then came the wilderness band,
and there was the Word.

Refrain: AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH
AND THE WORD BECAME BONE.
AND THE WORD BECAME ONE OF OUR OWN.

Some called Him Savior. Some called Him King.
Some called Him the One who would change everything.
Since called Him Truth. Some called Him Grace.
Some called Him the Light to enlighten the whole human race-
and there was the Word. REFRAIN

Wherever falsehood is turned into right,
Wherever blindness is turned into sight,
Wherever death is turned into birth,
Wherever warfare is turned into peace on this earth-
There was the Word. REFRAIN

Upcoming Worship, Education, Fellowship, and Service Opportunities

Sunday, September 14 - RALLY DAY and BACKPACK BLESSING

9:30 Worship and Sunday School

Monday, September 15 - 10:00 Bible Study Brunch

12:30 Food Pantry

Tuesday, September 16 - 10:00 Third Tuesday Bible Study

Friday, September 19 - 12:30 Food Pantry

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 24 - 12:30 Food Pantry

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Office Hours

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

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