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The Season of Advent...is a time of expectant waiting, knowing fully the amazing gift God is about to deliver and yet, at the same time, a period of slowing down to [savor the season](#). It's an opportunity to set aside special moments to fully experience the joy and the miracle of Christmas, to focus on

Christ's birth in the midst of the chaos that often covers our holiday to-do lists.

Advent is both a wonderful and challenging season. We begin a new church year while the world is busy finishing a calendar year...and the month is filled with shopping and parties beyond what our energy and time can sometimes handle. But while society urges us to hurry and spend, scripture and tradition beckon us to slow down and wait.

My dearest friends in Christ, Advent is a chance for us to carve out time to commemorate the coming of Christ into the world. It's embracing a [Psalm 46:10](#) lifestyle for a few weeks each year...“Be still and know I am God.” Be still. Wait. Savor. Gather. Invite...that's what Advent is all about.

Instead of sprinting toward Christmas morning, Advent invites us to breathe deeply and appreciate the anticipation of Christ's birth. But sometimes we wonder...how are we to do it? How do we add just one more thing to our sometimes already overwhelmed and overbooked holiday schedules? Maybe it's best to not think of it as adding one more thing...Advent is about making space for the best thing, so our hearts have room for Jesus as Christmas arrives.

This Advent, may you celebrate with expectant hearts, savoring the season as we look forward with excitement to receiving the greatest gift God has ever given His children.

A Blessed Advent and Christmas to you all,
Pastor Laura



December
2023
Worship
Services

WORSHIP *with us*

December 3rd 9:30 a.m. The first Sunday of Advent

December 10th 9:30 a.m. The second Sunday of Advent

December 17th 9:30 a.m. The third Sunday of Advent

"Look For the Light" Christmas Program - The Christmas story retold by our children, youth, and choirs with the animals of the manger in our sanctuary.

December 24th 9:30 a.m. The fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24th 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship

December 24th 10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

December 31st 9:30 a.m. Service of Lessons and Carols

All services will also be live-streamed on the HCLC Facebook page.

All are welcome to join us for worship!



The Children's Chalice



Holy Communion Lutheran Church December, 2023

HAPPY BAPTISM BIRTHDAY to the following children
who were baptized during the month of December:

Giulia Ferrentino Jameson Palmgren Graham Pfarr

SANTA'S NIGHT OUT will be on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8th from 5:30 – 8:30pm.

It's a night designed for parents to have some extra time to prepare for the Christmas season before it gets into full swing! The theme of the night will be based on the popular Movie **THE GRINCH**. A pizza dinner will be provided for the children. We will also continue the tradition of the "Night Before Christmas" story with Patrick and gift exchange, so please bring a \$1 gift wrapped as a present. To support our HCLC Food Pantry, please also bring a box of cereal.

Bring your holiday cheer and a friend too if you want!

Wear your comfy pajamas!

Bring your sleeping bag or a favorite blanket!

Bring a box of cereal for the HCLC Food Pantry!

Remember a wrapped \$1 gift for the gift exchange too!

Please use this [LINK](#) to sign up by December 5th.

The CHRISTMAS PROGRAM will be on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th at 9:30am.

Please use this [LINK](#) to sign up to share 2 dozen cookies (homemade or store bought) for the **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM RECEPTION** in the lounge after the Christmas Program. Cookies may be dropped off in church during the final rehearsal on Saturday, December 16th between 9:00am and 10:30am. (Please place them in the last pew.) Otherwise, bring them to the lounge before the service on Sunday, December 17th.

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa at sundayschool.hclc@gmail.com.

THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON...

December 24th or December 31st.

SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL RESUME ON JANUARY 7th.

HAVE A VERY...





Our Youth Groups and Confirmation Class will not be meeting in the month of December, but please join us in January on the following dates:



2nd - 5th Grade Youth Group

All of our 2nd - 5th Graders are invited to come and join the pastors for some Popcorn and Playtime on **Sunday, January 7th, from 11:00-12:00.**

6th - 8th Grade Youth Group

All of our 6th - 8th Graders are invited to join Pastor Laura and Pastor Mark on **Sunday, January 21st, from 11:00-12:00** for an awesome and amazing time of fun, fellowship and learning. Snacks will be provided.



Our next block of Confirmation takes place in January. We'll meet from 12:00-1:00PM on the following Sundays...
January 14th, 21st and 28th.

Noisy Offering For The Warm Feet Mission

Just in time for the BRRR months...Septembrrr, Octobrrr, Novembrrr and Decembrrr...we are bringing back the "noisy offering" for our Sunday School children to collect money to bless others. Our first collection, that will extend through the BRRRR months, will be for the purchase of socks to donate to HALO, Hospitality Center and other organizations that help residents in Racine and Racine County. The noisy offering is not the only way to give. If you would like to donate to this mission, you can make a check out to Holy Communion Warm Feet Mission and mail to the church. Thank you for your support!



Collecting Warm Clothing and Blankets for the Hospitality Center

If you have extra blankets, sheets, pillows, or warm clothing, you can bring them in for the Hospitality Center. They give these items away throughout the cold weather, so you can bring them in until spring. You can bring your donations to the office during the week or put them in the back of the church on Sunday morning. Thank you for caring about the vulnerable people in our community.





“Look for the Light”
A Christmas program by
Holy Communion Lutheran Church

WHEN: Sunday, December 17, 2023 at 9:30 A.M.
WHO: All the children, youth, choirs, and other members of HCLC
WHERE: Holy Communion Lutheran Church

Ways you can help our children be a part of this special day:

1. Have children at rehearsals on these dates: Sundays, Nov. 19, Dec. 3, and Dec. 10 - rehearsals in the choir room - during church as well as regular Sunday School time.
2. Practice our new songs “Noel” and “When Love Was Born” on the 2021/22 practice CD or stream *Noel by Chris Tomlin and Look for the Light by Point of Grace*.
4. Make participants’ costumes. No-sew Instructions will be sent home with song words or you can contact Linda Godson who offered to sew costumes for folks who need them.
5. Please try to have children at the full rehearsal on Saturday, December 16, from 9 - 10:30 A.M. This will take place in the sanctuary. Enter through the main church doors at the back.
6. Sunday, Dec 17: Have children dressed and in the lounge/youth room by 9:10 for warm ups, last minute instructions, and nerve-calming.

Other ways to help:

1. Make a financial contribution to help pay for animals, snacks, etc.
2. Help older students run lines and remind them to read slowly!
3. Photograph the program. Let Kate know if you want to “officially” do this.
4. Help prepare the sanctuary on Saturday, December 16. I need some folks at 8:15 A.M. to move risers. Once kids arrive at 9 and they’re placed on the risers for rehearsals, we can start laying and taping the plastic. Hay will be spread after children leave at 10:30 A.M. There are other tasks during this rehearsal that parents who stay can help with
5. Help clean up after the program on Sunday, December, 17th. Many hands = light work!

Please call or email Kate Potter-Barrow with any questions, if you or your child needs an extra rehearsal, or offers of help. Cell – 262-498-7593, or kpotterbarrow@gmail.com Texting is best.

THANK YOU. This’ll be fun!!!

Please note: The kids of HCLC will be singing at the 4 P.M. Christmas Eve service. I will simply call them up from the pews during the service, and we will sing something from the Christmas program. Hope to see you there as we celebrate the reason for the season!



Sunday, December 17th
from 12:00-1:30ish.

We'd love to have you join us as we sing carols and bring festive cheer to those who are not able to join us in worship. We'll meet in the parking lot and carpool to the various homes together.



**HOLY COMMUNION LUTHERAN CHURCH
YOUTH GATHERING**

BAKE *Sale*

**DECEMBER 17TH, 2023 | IN LOUNGE
FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

PLEASE HELP SUPPORT THE
YOUTH ATTENDING THE ELCA
YOUTH GATHERING IN NEW
ORLEANS NEXT SUMMER! ALL
PROCEEDS WILL BE USED TO
FUND THIS EVENT!

Everyone with a December birthday is invited to join us in the lounge on **Thursday, December 14th** at 10:00 a.m. for a cup of coffee, a birthday donut, and some fun conversation as we celebrate you! *(Please note... the birthday club is moving to the second Thursday of the month!)* Hope to see you there!

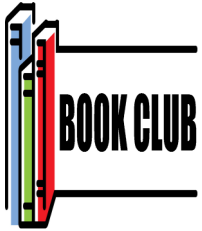


THIRD TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Third Tuesday Bible Study will meet December 19th at the home of Julie Burton from 10:00 to 10:30. The discussion begins with Peter, James, and John witnessing Jesus's transfiguration: "The Glory Of the Mountain Top" in Mark 9:2-8 on page 242. Both Jesus and the disciples are facing the reality that Jesus must die. Now Jesus shows them that his resurrection will follow revealing God's glorious purpose. The disciples still anticipated "the triumph of Israel" (page 248).

On the mountaintop, in the presence of the glory, Peter had wanted to build three booths to honor Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. But Mark 9:14-18 (on page 248) describes "Coming Down From the Mount" and again facing the crowds. Yet Jesus responds to a woman's request to deal with her son's convulsions. Just after revealing his upcoming death on the cross, Jesus reaches out to help this young boy. Mark 9:19-24 (page 252) the father cries out his confession of faith whether or not his son would be healed.

What an example for us! Our faith must not be dependent on God being miraculous in our lives. But transforming our spirit. That's why we have Bible study. December 20th from 10:00 to 11:30 at the home of Julie Burton (136 Steeplechase Drive) to discuss Mark 9:2 to 9:29 in William Barclay pages 242 to 255.



Our last book for 2023 is Black Cake by Charmaine Wilkerson. We will be meeting on Wednesday, December 13 at 10:00 - 11:30.

Black Cake will transport us across the decades and around the globe. Estranged brothers, Byron and Benny, come together to deal with their mother's death and solve the mystery of her secret past. A journey of discovery that takes them to far off places and ends with her famous Caribbean black cake. The family saga is full of secrets, betrayal, love, tradition, and in the end acceptance. We can't choose what we inherit, however we can choose who we become. Can Byron and Benny reclaim their once close relationship? Can they fulfill their mother's final request? Ms. Wilkerson's debut novel is a story of how an inheritance can shape relationships and history.

Our meeting will be at Julie Burton home. If you would like to join our discussion, you can call Julie at 262-639-5914 for directions.

We are planning on reading The Moon is Down by John Steinbeck for our January 10, 2024 meeting.

Quilting Group

Often, when natural disasters strike or war drives families from their homes, our hearts ache with compassion but we don't know how to help. If you've wondered how to volunteer to quilt for charity, look no further. Making Lutheran World Relief Mission Quilts is a tangible way to express love to our neighbors in need. Quilts can be used as warm bedding, simple tents or floor coverings. Each one reflects God's loving presence in a world rife with suffering.

LWR distributed its first quilts in 1945 to families in war-torn Europe following the Second World War. Within a decade, the ministry was reaching around the globe to villages far removed from the world's attention. Today, an average of 300,000 quilts are lovingly given worldwide each year.

Our quilters will meet Tuesday, December 12th from 1:00 - 3:00. They would love to have more help and everyone is welcome to join them. No prior quilting experience is needed. Call Linda Holmquist, 633-0032, or Evelyn Lajiness, 634-0527, if you have any questions about the group.

Food Pantry News



Thank you to all of you who donated to the pantry for Thanksgiving. 53 turkeys were donated along with many, many other items that helped make Thanksgiving meals possible for the clients who came in to our pantry. We served 195 families with a total of 726 people on the two days the pantry was open before Thanksgiving! The volunteers were just amazing and we are extremely grateful to the schools, churches, organizations and individuals who donated food, time and money which made it all possible.

For the month of December the pantry is asking for donations of tomato soup, cereal, side dishes, jello, bar soap, and egg noodles. We have almost no canned fruit or vegetables left and are asking for cans of mixed fruit, corn, peas, and mixed vegetables.

The pantry can always use your clean, lightly used plastic shopping bags and large brown paper bags. If you are receiving calendars, cards, or pens in the mail from charitable organizations and you will not be able to use them, the pantry clients are always happy to receive them. We also get requests for Bibles and children's Bible storybooks, so if you have any that aren't being used you can bring them to the pantry.

Thanks again for all of your help. We could not continue this ministry without you!

Men's Group

All men are invited to join this group for discussion on the second Friday of the month. They have had some wonderful conversations and they would be pleased to have you join them at 9:00 a.m. on December 8th.

Adult Education Coming in January

Watch the January Chalice and bulletin announcements for more information on upcoming Adult Education opportunities including a discussion about Abraham and the Holy Family. Our Adult Education is open to everyone and meets after worship at about 10:45. Grab a cup of coffee and a treat and join us!



Volunteer Opportunities

There is a sign up sheet in the lounge to bring treats for coffee fellowship through the month of February and there are still several weeks available for you to share your favorite treats.

A few of our teams of ushers could use more help. The teams work on a rotating schedule, one month on and two months off. Please email or call the office, or office.hclc@gmail.com, 632-8802, if you would like to be an usher. Not sure? Try it for a week or two and then decide if it is a good choice for you!

Our altar guild teams could use some help too. Altar guild members set up for communion and clean up after the service and change the paraments (altar cloths) as needed. They also work on a rotating schedule, one month on and three months off. Please contact Susan Barbee, at barbeesusan@gmail.com or 262-633-0659, with any questions or to volunteer.

Finance Update

October Numbers

Revenue: \$44,049.66
Expense: \$42,732.90
Net Income: \$1,316.76

Year-to-date Numbers

Revenue: \$435,625.65
Expense: \$439,495.50
Net Income: (-\$3869.85)

This is a thank you letter we received for a donation the church made to the Friends of the Racine Public Library.



Chambers of
Hon. Kristin M. Cafferty
Racine County Circuit Court, Branch 5
730 Wisconsin Ave
Racine, Wisconsin 53403

Clerk
Carrie Ray
Carrie.Ray@wicourts.gov
(262) 636-3313

Court Reporters
Lisa Nugent
Lisa.Nugent@wicourts.gov
(262) 636-3866

October 24, 2023

Holy Communion Lutheran Church
2000 W 6th Street
Racine, WI 53405

JoAnne Breese-Jaeck
8741 Blue Spruce Court
Racine, WI 53406

Dear all Holy Communion Lutheran Church Parish Members and JoAnne,

On behalf of myself, Racine County, the Friends of the Racine Public Library, and the youth at the Racine County Juvenile Detention Center, I wish to express our gratitude for your generous donation to refresh the book collection at the detention center.

Racine County is prioritizing literacy efforts aimed toward our youth. In May, County Executive Jonathan Delagrave formed a literacy steering committee to make recommendations for increasing literacy competency in our community. Racine Unified School District has also announced plans to increase its efforts to increase literacy proficiency. Identifying literacy as a public health issue, Mr. Delagrave noted, "[W]hat is the most predictive measure of future success? Literacy.... My experience is if you're fighting poverty, workforce shortages, and numerous other issues which cross racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic boundaries it all starts with literacy."

Mr. Delagrave noted the following statistics:

- Only 39 percent of all third graders in Wisconsin tested as proficient or advanced in English language arts in 2018-19
- In comparison, just 21 percent of third graders enrolled in Racine Unified Schools tested as proficient or advanced

I, too, have implemented literacy initiatives in my role as the Juvenile Court Judge for Racine County, which I have discussed with my friend JoAnne. One project I have been working on is enhancing the library collection at the juvenile detention center. The Racine County Youth in Governance program had created a detention center library as a project several years ago. However, over time the collection needed an update.

Unbeknownst to me, JoAnne discussed this need with your community. Generously, your church made a \$1000 donation to the Friends of the Racine Public Library to be used to update the selections at the juvenile detention center. We were all inspired to take action. Since your donation, we have done the following:

1. Performed a culling, sorting and cataloging and of the current library collection;
2. Invested in a computer program and scanner to keep track of the books in the collection and to allow the youth to check out books;

...continued on page 10

3. Recruited a library science student volunteer to perform an investigation into the types of books that would best meet the needs of the youth and to recommend a library collection policy and protocol;
4. Created updated policies to facilitate providing relevant and diverse books of a variety of reading levels to the youth in an accessible way;
5. Secured the agreement of Racine County to hire a part time librarian as a part of the enhanced programming being planned for the new detention center, known as the Racine County Youth Development and Care Center (RCYDCC);
6. Partnered with Racine Unified to enable the youth at the facility to utilize the RUSD libraries to request books in their collection, and the generous provision of new books through a Title 1 grant;
7. Created ownership in the new collection by youth at the center who have stamped, scanned and organized the new collection;
8. Increased awareness and recognition from all stakeholders that literacy is a key component to the rehabilitation of the youth at the center.

In other words, your donation has sparked a movement! Although the process took far longer than anticipated, I am now able to report that the detention center collection has a far greater variety of books, including graphic novels, high interest/low reading level books for teens, poetry, stories featuring relatable characters and circumstances, and newly released books that are popular titles and in demand. This updated collection will demonstrate to our youth that we are committed to them and reinforce the message that they are valued.

Thanks in part to your donation, when we make the transition to the new RCYDCC, we will be able to bring with us a library collection that reflects its mission to “transform youth justice, strengthen families, and keep youth out of adult corrections” by “providing safe, evidence-based care and incorporating a trauma-informed approach, offering rehabilitative programs including mental health and substance abuse treatment, youth development/prevention/intervention services, and gang diversion.” It is my hope that you can watch the new facility being built with the pride of knowing that your donation will have a role in this commitment to bring hope to our youth.

I have enclosed a few photos of the books purchased with your funds. Thank you once again for your support.

With gratitude,



Hon. Kristin M. Cafferty
Circuit Court Judge

cc: Friends of the Racine Public Library
Antonio Chavez, Racine County Juvenile Detention Center
Hope Otto, Racine County Human Services Department



December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 1:00 Food Pantry	2 9:00 Hanging of the Greens
3 Setting 3 9:30 Worship & Sunday School	4 10:00 Bible Study 1:00 Food Pantry	5	6	7	8 9:00 Men's Group 1:00 Food Pantry 5:30 Santa's Night Out	9
10 O the Joy 9:30 Worship & Sunday School	11 10:00 Bible Study 1:00 Food Pantry	12 1:00 Quilters	13 10:00 Book Club	14 10:00 Birthday Club	15 1:00 Food Pantry	16 9:30 Christmas Program Rehearsal
17 Look For The Light 9:30 Christmas Program 10:30 Youth Bake Sale 12:00 Christmas Caroling	18 1:00 Food Pantry	19 10:00 Third Tues Bible Study	20	21	22 1:00 Food Pantry	23
24 Advent Reflections 9:30 Worship 4:00 Christmas Eve Worship 10:30 Christmas Eve Worship	25 Office Closed Christmas Day	26 Office Closed	27 10 - 2 Poinsettia Pick up	28 Office Closed	29 Office Closed 1:00 Food Pantry	30
31 Lessons and Carols 9:30 Worship	New Year's Day Office Closed					

December Volunteers

Thank you to the volunteers who help keep worship services running smoothly! If you would like to volunteer, please call the office, 262-632-8802, or talk to one of the pastors.

	December 3 9:30 am	December 10 9:30 am	December 17 9:30 am	December 24 9:30 am	December 24 4:00 pm	December 24 10:30 pm	December 31 9:30 am
Greeter	Kay Krause	Jo Nissen	Lisa & Jeff Neubauer		Trish & Charles Jacob and David Timmerman	Kathy Cuccio, Joan and Kevin Watson	
Lector	Marianne Jensen	John Lehman	None Needed		Sheri Krenzke	Joleen Carlson	Roger Degerman
Communion Assistants	John Lehman Joni Reske	Don Lautz Grace Diebert	None Needed	None Needed	None Needed	Jean Veltman Megan Cash	None Needed
AV Technicians	Lynn Helmke	Todd Jansen	Kylee Albright Barb Salvo	Lynn Helmke	Todd Jansen	Barb Salvo	Kylee Albright
Coffee Fellowship	Jean & Jim Veltman	Christine Monreal	None Needed		None Needed	None Needed	
Councilperson In Charge	Polly Timmerman	Rebecca Mason	Kylee Albright	Jim Black	Laurie Knudson	Kylee Albright	David Knudson
Ushers	David Krueger, Steve Barootian, David Leisner, Gary Wood						
Altar Guild	Susan Barbee, Val Conner, Barb Salvo						

Altar Flowers

December 3 - In memory of Mary Larsen on her birthday given by Bob and Karen Larsen and Amy Larsen and in memory of Naomi Hahner for her birthday given by Kristin Hahner and Heidi Komistra.

December 10 - In honor of the December birthdays of their grandsons, Dane Simonovic and Cashton Simonovic given by Dave & Darlene Krueger.

December 17 - No altar flowers - Christmas program

December 24 - in honor of her family, given by Barb Maier.

The Chalice December 2023

The Chalice is a publication of Holy Communion Lutheran Church, a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Join us at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays for in-person or live-streamed worship services. Our live-stream can be found on the HCLC Facebook page and the videos remain online to view later. Please call or email the office if you, or someone you know, would like to be added to our email list to receive the weekly bulletin and hymns.

Contact Information

Pastor Mark Doidgepastormark.hclc@gmail.com
 Pastor Laura Fladtenpastorlaura.hclc@gmail.com
 Lisa Lequia, Children's Ministry Director.....sundayschool.hclc@gmail.com
 Keri Pappalardo, Financial Administrator.....keri.hclc@gmail.com
 Heidi Komistra, Office Administrator.....office.hclc@gmail.com
 Office Phone.....262-632-8802
 Fax.....262-637-5622

Website: www.hopeonahill.org