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On Pentecost Sunday, May 28, nine of our beloved youth affirmed their faith in their Rite of Confirmation Service. It was a joyous day...filled with much love and abundant blessings!

For both Pastor Mark and myself, it has been an absolute privilege to journey alongside these beautiful and beloved children of God! Each of them are filled with wonder and questions and absolute delight!

As part of their confirmation journey, we ask each of our confirmands to choose a Bible verse that is meaningful to them and to also write a faith statement. We have found this to be a wonderful way for our confirmands to think about and reflect on their own faith and to let others know how they've deepened their faith throughout these past years. What follows are each of their chosen confirmation verses, along with their faith statements...ENJOY!

**Avalyn Delaney Adelsen**

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. Psalm 23:1*

"God is the positive and the light in dark times. God is happiness and joy. God is with us always, he will never let us down."

**Annalise Kathryne Andersen**

*We love, because God first loved us. 1 John 4:19*

"I believe in God, and the words of God. I believe in Jesus, and him dying on the cross for my sins. I believe that God loves me and has always loved me. I believe that God is seen throughout the world in the way we love and care for others, like how we love family and friends."

**Josephine Evelyn Andersen**

*How precious is your loving kindness, O God! And the children of men take refuge in the shadows of your wings. Psalm 36:7*

"I believe God is kind and forgiving. I believe God is called the Lamb, for God chooses kindness over wrath. I believe one could seek out God for safety and shelter, as said in psalm 36:7 "How precious is your loving kindness, o God! And the children of men take refuge in the shadows of your wings." I believe all of this, for God is not only kind, but forgiving."

*continued on page 2.....*

**Paige Aurora Barbee**

***The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still. Exodus 14:14***

“What it means to be a child of God is, creating a path to get God. That means you pray and go to church and keep a good relationship with God. I have learned that it’s not easy to follow the path to get to God. You have ups and downs sometimes but you get back up and keep going. My grandma takes me to church every Sunday. She helps me connect with God every Sunday. My family has encouraged me to keep on that path to get to God. God wants us to follow him always and forever.”

**Eleanor Roosevelt Mason**

***And the dust returns to the Earth as it was and the spirit returns to God who gave it. Ecclesiastes 12:7***

“I felt a bit vulnerable when I was asked to write my faith statement. In faith statements I have reviewed, the author seemed so sure of what they trusted in God, with statements of “I believe this” or “I believe that.” But for me, I have never really been too sure of my faith. I wasn’t sure what I was supposed to believe in, much less what I actually believe. It always seemed like one giant question mark in my life. I have always had such a strange relationship with church. When I was younger, my parents took me to many kinds of churches. I dipped my feet in so many religions, I never felt like I had a concrete relationship with God or Jesus or any church for that matter. As I grow deeper in my religious journey, I am still confused of how I feel about “the church.” When I pray, I do not feel a connection to God. I mean yes, there are times when I pray when I feel I really need God. But it usually feels like I am speaking to nothing. Sometimes I pray and what I asked of God is answered in the actions of other people, which just confuses me more.

The only time I feel some sort of divine presence is with music. When I was a child, I fell in love with playing the piano. The way I was able to read the notes like some sort of secret code, finding my place on the keys like discovering new land that had never been touched, and struggling with the more difficult pieces until I figured them out was an excuse to leave the world. Music never bothered or boasted, or poked, or pried, it always gave me a chance to breathe, letting me forget my worries. When I start to play a piece, something takes over my body, I can feel some sort of spirit inside me. As a child I wasn’t exactly sure what to call this aside from magic. There has always been something about putting my hands on the piano, my whole entire world disappearing. I am able to just focus solely on what notes I’m going to touch next. And that’s all that matters while my fingers are on the keys. I can create this music with my own fingers, I can read this different language that so few people can, and I am able to tell myself this is what I am doing, this is what I am putting my mind to. I have learned that faith does not require an absence of doubt, but it does require some belief. For a while I struggled with believing, but now I know that music is my way of believing. My expression of faith is not through prayer but through music. When I play the piano, I feel closer to God. Playing the piano brings me closer to God than prayers or homilies or psalms ever could. But it is not just when I play the piano. My music is a gift God gave me.

When I was born, I was like a blank piece of sheet music waiting to be written. As I grow up, I am writing the measures of my life, each one different and unique, changing with every note through my childhood, then moving on to college and beyond. Of course, some of the measures have been hard to learn, the notes difficult to find, and have left me feeling sad and frustrated. Yet, when I finally figure out sections of the piece and can go about it freely and happily, those measures become my favorite. The music was a gift from God, the spirit of God traveling with me my whole entire life.”

**Finley Jane Remington**

***Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed for the Lord, your God, is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9***

“God to me is understanding, loving, encouraging, and protective of all. Joshua 1:9, “Be strong and courageous: do not be frightened or dismayed for the Lord, your God, is with you wherever you go.” I believe God is forgiving, trustworthy, and very wise. Getting baptized and receiving Holy Communion means that I am accepting God to be my Lord and Savior. Being a child of God is being loved and never walking through life alone. When I look to God and pray, I know he is guiding and steering me in the right direction and to be strong willed. I will continue on my faith journey through the guidance of our church and my loved ones. I also wish to keep spreading faith through my community.”

*continued on page 3.....*

**Arabella Amanda Steberl**

***But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary and they shall walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31***

“Throughout my life, the church has always been a part of me. Whether I was with my mom or my dad, they always made sure I knew about God and kept my faith in me for as long as I can remember, even when I wasn’t at services. I had been to a couple of different churches with my dad, but when I was with my mom it has always been HCLC, and that’s where church has always felt like home. At Holy Communion, I’ve grown up knowing some of the best people. They’ve always been so kind and made great things happen like choir, Sunday school, VBS, and Santa’s Night Out. Of course, the church is a place to worship and learn about God, but a lot of the time growing up it would feel more like a family, and the little things like that made church fun to go to. Before writing this, I never really had to think about who God is and what God means to me. But after, I now think that God is a teacher and planner who helps guide you through life and spreads the word of hope and peace.

I’ve always been a firm believer in the saying, “Everything happens for a reason.” I think that the saying relates to God because as you make mistakes and things happen to you, God is teaching you and you’re learning from your experiences. During my time in church, one of the most important things I’ve learned is to trust God and what his plan is for you, especially when bad things happen. A couple of years ago I read a post that said, “God’s love is like a glow stick.” I think that sentence is true, and for whatever reason that has stuck with me since I read it and I go through day-to-day life. Many people lose their faith and give up on God when things start going downhill for them. They think that if bad things happen to them, God doesn’t exist. But think about a glow stick as if you’ve never seen one before. You might think it’s cool as it is, or you might not. Either way, to see the glow stick at its best state, its brightest color, you need to bend it and crack it. That’s exactly what God’s love does with people. Sometimes God needs to break you down and make you feel bad just so you can rise up and overcome to shine even brighter than you did before. And the only way you can get to be your best self is if you believe and follow what God has in store for you through all the ups and downs of life.”

**Nevaeh Rose Trujillo**

***Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7***

“I feel when faith grew a deeper meaning for me was when my grandpa got sick. No matter how hard it got, I never saw him or my grandma lose faith. Even in his last moments, he never gave up faith in God and stayed strong and kept fighting no matter how bad it got until his last breath. And even when times were difficult, my grandma never let us lose sight of God. I am who I am today thanks to my grandma and for my grandpa never losing faith no matter how hard things got. Watching my grandpa never lose sight in God, no matter how bad things got for him and I now look for God in my toughest times. At my grandpa’s funeral I watched my uncle try to fill in my grandpa’s shoes and take a leap of faith and stay strong for my family. My uncle spoke at my grandpa’s funeral and in that moment, I knew he had to put all his trust in God and that everything would be okay.

God has made a difference in my life by giving me faith in everything I do. I believe that God is with me in everything I do no matter how hard it is. Joshua 1:9 says, “Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” When my grandpa got sick I was angry with God asking, why my grandpa?...why my family?...why me? I was broken but as time went on and when my grandpa passed I knew God walked with my family through all of it and was now walking with my grandpa on the steps to heaven where he was not hurting anymore and was finally at peace. I wondered how my grandpa was not angry with God for hurting his family but as the journey went on I realized God gives his toughest battles to his toughest soldiers and he knew that even though it might hurt that he will be there to watch over us through all of it.

Going forward I will look for God in everything and everything I do and know that him and my grandpa will guide me through it.”



## The Children's Chalice



Holy Communion Lutheran Church June, 2023

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

Peyton Larson	Reece Reimann
Lincoln Lewis	Lucy Sparks

**On May 7<sup>th</sup> we celebrated First Communion for:**

Sawyer Krenzke, Kenzie Poffenberger and Kylie Riekema.

Here are their family's answers to "What Receiving Holy Communion Means To Us"

*From Sawyer:* "To me, I feel very calm and peaceful when it is time for Communion. It makes me feel good and thankful."

*From Us:* "Receiving Holy Communion is a special moment between Jesus and us. It is a reminder of the bond between us and all He sacrificed for us. We are thankful that Sawyer will now share in this special moment."

- Sawyer Krenzke Family

"Holy Communion is a reminder of our Father, Jesus, and how He gave His life for us. It is a way to connect us to all members within our church and community and be a part of the meal He shares with us. When we take Communion we receive our Lord's love, strength and nourishment for our bodies. During Communion we are reminded that our sins are forgiven. We are taking the bread and wine in remembrance of Jesus Christ."

-Kylie Riekema Family

"Holy Communion, to me, means the Body and Blood of Jesus. Before, I thought that Communion was JUST bread and wine. Now, I know that it is really the Body and Blood of Christ who was crucified and died for us. He taught us to do all of this in honor of Him. We get to honor Him every week in a number of ways, but especially in Communion."

-Kenzie Poffenberger Family

During our **Last Day of Sunday School Celebration** the children had fun playing Bingo and everyone got a prize! We also enjoyed the Ice Cream Social celebrating the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our church. A special thank you to Patrick BeBow for helping with Sunday School all year. The children really enjoy his very fun energy!!!

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
*Watch for details coming soon!*





For June the pantry is asking for donations of the following items:

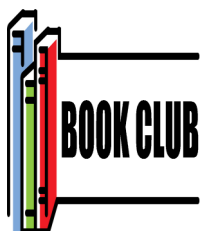
- 1 lb. bags of egg noodles
- regular-size canned pears
- 10 oz cans of tomato soup
- bar soap
- spaghetti sauce (no spaghetti noodles - they have an abundance of it).



Our shoppers are having a hard time buying many of the things we need because of limited supplies at some of the grocery stores. This makes the donations we receive from you more important than ever so that we can continue to provide healthy, balanced meal items for those in need in our community. We are incredibly grateful to all who add a few items for the pantry to their shopping carts. We know budgets are tight for many people and we give thanks for your generous gifts to our ministry.

We always need brown paper grocery bags and clean, lightly used, plastic shopping bags. If you have greeting cards or pens and pencils you will not use, please bring them to the pantry. We have also had requests for Bibles and children's Bible storybooks. If you have any you no longer use you can donate them to the pantry.

As always we are so very grateful to all who contribute money and food and those who volunteer their time. We could not continue this ministry without you!



Your book club has decided to read an Oprah's pick about the American dream. Our next meeting is scheduled for June 14th. We will be discussing An American Marriage by Tayari Jones. A captivating love story about the effects of injustice in contemporary American life. Celestial and Roy are living the American Dream. After Roy's incarceration for a crime he did not commit, Celestial turns to Roy's best friend for support. As time drags on, Celestial faces soul-wrenching decisions about balancing loyalty with independence. The novel looks deep into the souls of people who must reckon with the past while moving forward into the future. We will be meeting at 10:00-11:30 at Julie Burton's home at 136 Steeplechase Dr.

Our read for July will be Dear Edward by Ann Napolitano and is scheduled for July 12.

The study of the Gospel of Mark will meet Tuesday, June 20th, at the home of Julie Burton. A major figure this time will be King Herod. It begins with Mark 6:14 (page 168). Even though John the Baptist had confronted Herod about his sinfulness, Herod was intrigued. But his wife was not! And she had John beheaded. Now we face our own sinfulness. How do we seek to eliminate any reminder of OUR wrongdoing?



Jesus and his disciples increased in popularity so that "there were many coming and going and they could not find time even to eat" (John 6:31 on page 178). Just as they needed a break, so Barclay reminds us that "we cannot work without rest" (page 179). "We give God no opportunity to speak to us because we do not know how to be still and listen" (page 179).

So, the drama of the beheading of John the Baptist to the importance of taking time to be still and listen to God's message to us. What an amazing discussion awaits us. June 20, from 10:00 to 11:30 meet at Julie Burton's home (136 Steeplechase Drive). Our discussion is from page 169 to page 181, focused on Mark 6:14 to Mark 6:34.

### Quilting Group

The Quilting Group meets at 1:00 pm on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month to work on quilts for Lutheran World Relief. All are welcome to join them, even if you have no prior quilting experience, and they would love to have more help. If you have gently used full, queen or king size flat sheets that you no longer need, the quilters can use them for quilt backs. You can drop them off in the back of the church on Sunday morning or in the church office. Call Linda Holmquist, 633-0032, or Evelyn Lajiness, 634-0527, if you have any questions.



*Welcome!*  
**New Member Class**

A New Member Class and luncheon will be held on **Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 11:00AM – 12:30**. We welcome and invite all who are interested in becoming part of our church family here at Holy Communion Lutheran Church ☺. Lunch will be served, stories will be shared, and hopefully it will be a time of blessing for all. Please call Heidi in the church office (632-8802) or let Pastor Laura or Pastor Mark know you'll be joining us so that we can plan accordingly. (A new member installation and reception is planned for Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup>.)



Please join us for our new **Birthday Club**. On the **second** Tuesday of each month from 10:00-11:00AM, we invite all who are celebrating a birthday in that particular month (this time June) to join us for coffee, some fun conversation and a birthday donut while we celebrate you! Hope to see all of you who have June birthdays on Tuesday, June 13th in the Lounge.

### Relay For Life Luminarias

The annual Relay for Life fundraiser for the American Cancer Society will be held Friday, June 9th at Campus Park, 8500 Campus Drive, in Mt. Pleasant. Thanks to the support of team captains, participants, staff, and volunteers, Relay for Life has helped the American Cancer Society fund lifesaving research, crucial patient services, and education and prevention initiatives that have helped millions of people – and they have no intention of slowing down.

Luminarias honor every life touched by cancer. You can dedicate them to a loved one lost, someone currently battling, or anyone who's overcome it. When you attend a Relay event, you'll see they are decorated with names and sometimes messages to the people they're dedicated to. The Luminarias will be lit at 6:00 p.m. Relay participants share an emotional moment when each is lit in remembrance of a life touched by cancer. Together, they take a moment of silence to remember the loved ones they're dedicated to. When you make a donation for a Luminaria it helps fund the American Cancer Society's mission to help save lives.

Susan Anderson will once again have luminarias for you to purchase and decorate. She will have them available in the conference room after worship on June 4th. The minimum donation for each white luminaria bag is \$5.00. You can stay to decorate yours here or take it to work on at home. Bags must be returned to Susan or the church office before June 9th. Please contact Susan with any questions, [susanderson06@att.net](mailto:susanderson06@att.net).



### Special Thanks for Refugee Volunteers and Donors

On Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, the pastors, staff, leadership and all of Holy Communion's Community of Faith would like to publicly thank all of you who helped in any way with our beloved refugees this past year (financial, donations for their home, time spent with them in any way, etc). Lives were changed and blessings upon blessings were experienced....we are truly appreciate and grateful! Please join us so we can give a blessing of thanksgiving for all of you!



### Celebrating Our Graduates

On June 11th we will honor our graduates during the worship service. If you or a member of your family is graduating from high school, college, or a technical program there is still time to have them listed in the bulletin! Please send their name, the school they attend, the program or degree they are completing, plans for the future and, if possible, a photograph. The information can be emailed to [office.hclc@gmail.com](mailto:office.hclc@gmail.com), sent by US mail or dropped off. Please have the information in by Monday, June 5th.



Emma Krenzke, daughter of Sheri & Chad Krenzke, is graduating with high honors from Racine Lutheran High School. Emma will be going to UW Oshkosh in the fall to become a teacher.



Matthew Dittbrender, son of Lana Buhler, graduated from UW Milwaukee with a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. Matthew plans on looking for a job in his field until he finds one that fits!

### Ketchup Club

Our first two Ketchup Club outings have been a lot of fun! It is wonderful to be able to socialize and "catch-up" with one another. We are meeting on the fourth Tuesday of every month, but our times vary. This month we will meet for breakfast at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 27th, at Dynasty Family Restaurant, 2427 Lathrop Ave. To help plan, please let Pastor Laura ([pastorlaura.hclc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlaura.hclc@gmail.com)), or Heidi in the office, ([office.hclc@gmail.com](mailto:office.hclc@gmail.com)) know by June 25th if you're able to join us.



### Finance Update

April 2023		Year to Date 2023	
Revenue:	\$45,488.62	Revenue:	\$174,324.84
Expenses:	\$40,341.97	Expenses:	\$180,075.87
Net Income:	\$5,146.65	Net Income:	(-\$5,751.03)



## ***125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Family Picnic and Worship in the Park!***

Sunday July 30, 2023

Johnson Park Pavilion, 6200 Northwestern Ave.

Worship begins at 9:30 am, with picnic following.

### **Provided**

Pulled Pork and buns

Plates, cups, napkins, plasticware

Ice and coolers on hand

### **For you to bring**

Last Name A-L: salads or sides

Last Name M-Z: desserts

Lawn Chairs and Beverages

(No glass containers and no alcohol unless purchased at Johnson Park Clubhouse.)

Activities and games for kids and adults. (Kids, bring your friends!) Rain or shine we'll gather and rejoice!

See you at the park!



# June 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 1:00 Food Pantry	3
4 <i>Setting 3</i> 9:30 Worship	5 1:00 Food Pantry	6	7	8	9 1:00 Food Pantry Relay For Life	10
11 <i>We Are Called</i> 9:30 Worship Honoring Our Graduates	12 1:00 Food Pantry	13 10:00 Birthday Club 1:00 Quilters	14 10:00 Book Club	15	16 1:00 Food Pantry	17
18 <i>O the Joy</i> 9:30 Worship	19 1:00 Food Pantry	20 10:00 Third Tues. Bible Study	21	22	23 1:00 Food Pantry	24
25 <i>Setting 4</i> 9:30 Worship Special Thank You 11:00 New Member Class	26 1:00 Food Pantry	27 9:30 Ketchup Club @ Dynasty Restaurant 1:00 Quilters	28	29	30 1:00 Food Pantry	

### **June 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.

	<b>June 4 9:30 am</b>	<b>June 11 9:30 am</b>	<b>June 18 9:30 am</b>	<b>June 25 9:30 am</b>
<b>Greeter</b>	Susan Anderson	Lori Neu, Joni Reske	Kay Krause	Carrie Jansen
<b>Lector</b>	Julie Burton	Lynn Sinclair	Jim Black	Gary Wee
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Gary Wood Julie Burton	Sheri Krenzke Carson Krenzke	Don Lautz Jim Black	Lynn Helmke Penny Haakenson
<b>AV Technicians</b>	Lynn Helmke Barb Salvo	Todd Jansen	Kylee Albright	Barb Salvo
<b>Coffee Fellowship</b>	Joni Reske	Jim Black	Jim & Jean Veltman	Trish Carr Jacob
<b>Councilperson In Charge</b>	Andy Larson	Kylee Albright	Jim Black	Joleen Carlson
<b>Ushers</b>	Dave Krueger, Steve Barootian, Phil Hermann, Gary Lequia, Ed Wosilait			
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Lynn Riekkoff, Karen Johnson, Cindy Myhre			

### **June Altar Flowers**

**June 4** - In loving memory of Mabel and Oscar Krause, given by Kay Krause

**June 11** - In loving memory of Natale and Vincena Balestrieri, given by Marianne Jensen  
and in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary, given by Julie & Don Burton

**June 18** - In loving memory of Mikael Hahner, given by Heidi Komistra

**June 25** - In memory of Don Dobrowski, given by Gloria and her family, with love

## **The Chalice June 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 Doidge .....pastormark.hclc@gmail.com  
 Pastor Laura Fladen .....pastorlaura.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