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2024

SHARING POSSESSIONS

Twice in the book of Acts, it is recorded that the life of the earliest Christian community in Jerusalem was characterized by the sharing of possessions. Acts 2:44 and 4:32 describe how those who owned goods and property sold them, and how the Apostles took responsibility for distributing the proceeds to the needy in their community. This sharing of things was no doubt fed by the expectation that Jesus would soon return from Heaven. But it also reflected the fact that wealth was increasingly concentrated in the hands of a relatively few people. This is not the only place in the Bible, where this ethic was practiced. In fact, there were several **renewal movements** in Israel's history where the sharing of possessions took place. After the Jewish War... it was compulsory.

But there were problems in Jerusalem. Not all members of the community were honest in their generosity. Ananias and Sapphira, who **secretly** retained some money they had received after selling some property, were struck dead (Acts 5:1-6). Neither was the distribution always fair. Greek speaking Christians, probably wealthier than their Jewish brethren, complained about the neglect of their widows in the distribution. The selling of property may have contributed to the difficulties experienced by the Jerusalem church during an empire wide famine in 46-47 CE. Paul's collection for the **poor** church in Jerusalem (Galatians 2:10) may also have been an indication of its economic distress.

Such is the uneasy relationship between greed and faith, money and the church. Yet Jesus spoke about money often. Jesus knew that generous people are happier people. And so he asked us to give... generously and joyfully. It is not compulsory (anymore) to give to the church. We ask you to give out of love.

To give because you are grateful for what God has accomplished in your life. And we do appreciate all that you do and all of the ways that you give. And so whether you give expectantly, or extravagantly, or reverently or generously,

We hope that it brings you joy. Because that is the point.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Mark

Meet Our Newest Members

On March 10th we welcomed sixteen new members to the HCLC family. We asked them to write a little to introduce themselves to the congregation.

Eunice Carlson - Hello, my name is Eunice Carlson. I was born in Newfolden, MN and raised in the area. It is here where I met the love of my life Allen Carlson and married in 1951. In 1956 and we moved to Racine where we raised our family of 10 children. I have been a member of Messiah Lutheran Church since coming to Racine until their recent closure. Although my mobility limits my physical presence, I am excited to join my son and daughter-in-law who attend HCLC (Jim and Joleen Carlson) as a new member. I also want to thank Pastor Laura for her visits which made joining HCLC an easy decision.

Laura Kozenski - Laura and her husband, Matt, live in Mt. Pleasant. They have two grown children, Christopher and Sarah. She loves time with family and cooking, and enjoys volunteering in the community. After being a “long-term visitor” to HCLC, she is happy to officially become a member and looks forward to connecting with others and getting involved.

Christine Monreal - I moved to Racine a year ago. I have met many people in that year. All are now so special to me. I live with my dog, Bueller, and my cats, Talulah and Shirley.

Sally Neitzel - My husband Jim and I have a blended family of 5 children and 10 grandchildren. I love meeting new people and currently volunteer for Meals on Wheels, My Ryde, and as a greeter at Holy Communion. My career entailed working at Jacobsen Textron and SC Johnson in the international department where I was blessed to travel and meet people from all over the world.

Lyndsey & Kevin Newton and son, James- We are excited to join the Holy Communion congregation. While we are both Wisconsin natives, work brought us to Racine from Minneapolis, MN. We are still getting to know the area and look forward to meeting everyone at the church.

Mark and Lorrie Peterson - Mark is an Army veteran. He was a member of HCCLC growing up and is now coming back with his wife Lorrie. Lorrie is a home health care worker who is walking in faith with her husband Mark. They have a son named Jacob. He is a sergeant in the Army National Guard.

Alyssa & James Ricchio, Vincent and Luke - Hello all! My husband , James, and I (Alyssa) live in Salem with two amazing boys , Luke (9) and Vince (7). We have two dogs , 12 chickens and 1 fish. If it is up to the boys, more animals will be added in the future:) We love spending time outdoors , camping , traveling , fishing and lately our schedules are filling up with all types of sports. We have been searching for quite some time for a church that feels like home. Thank you for welcoming us into your family. We look forward to what the future has to hold.

David and Angela Singley - We are thankful to have found a church home at Holy Communion Lutheran Church. Angela was raised Catholic and attended parochial school while David was raised Lutheran (ELCA). Both have been confirmed in their respective denomination’s however, they have followed the path that God placed before them bringing them to the Lutheran Church. The both have served on church council previously and David enjoys serving as lector. They make their home in Caledonia.

Joanne Steeves - I was born and raised in the Racine area. I am the mother of three grown children, nine grandchildren, and great-grandmother of eight. I am retired and enjoy knitting, crocheting, sewing, fishing, playing cards, and spending time with the family. I am happy to be a member of the Holy Communion Church family.



Our Youth Groups will be meeting in the month of April on the following dates:



All 2nd - 8th Graders

We're going to join our groups together for the month of April and Pastor Mark and Pastor Laura are looking forward to an awesome and amazing time of fun, fellowship and learning with all of you. We'll gather on **Sunday, April 14th**, from 11:00-Noon in the youth room. Snacks will be provided.

Confirmands

We're looking forward to our time together with you in April. Our next block of confirmation classes take place on the following Sundays from 12:00-1:00PM in the youth room...**April 14th, 21st and 28th**.



Youth Gathering Participants

We'll be gathering together on **April 28th** in the youth room from 11:00-Noon!

We're hoping you're all able to join us, but please let Pastor Laura know if you're not able to attend.

Save the Date...





For the month of April the pantry is asking for donations of spam, canned chicken, mixed vegetables, small condiments, canned pineapple, and chicken noodle soup. They can always use brown paper grocery bags and clean, lightly used plastic bags.

If you bring donations down to the pantry please look for the white basket with the red bow and place your items in the basket. We keep track of the weight of all our donations so if you put them in the basket we know they need to be weighed.

We are very grateful to all who donate to the pantry. We could not continue this ministry without our wonderful volunteers and donors!

HELP NEEDED!

- > Food Pantry part-time, paid position.
- > If you or someone you know is interested in a part-time position (approximately 10-12 hrs. per week), we are looking for someone. It requires the ability to lift 50-60 lbs and driving to pick up groceries. Hours are somewhat flexible, but are generally morning hours during the week.

If you are interested, or would like more information, contact Gregg Albright, 262-989-6432.

A-V Tech Volunteers:

Would you like to help run the sound board and video cameras for worship services? We need your help!

No experience necessary, we will train you!

The time commitment is approximately one Sunday every other month, especially if we have multiple volunteers. You need to arrive at least 30 minutes prior to service to set things up and plan on 10 minutes after service to put things away.

Please talk to one of the pastors, Kylee Albright, or email the office if you are interested in learning more.



Usher Team Volunteers

One of our usher teams is in need of new members. No experience necessary, we will train you. Can you help? Please talk to one of the pastors or call or email the office if you would like to help.



We will be meeting by ZOOM on April 10 at 10-11:30. Our discussion will be on the novel, Fire Keeper's Daughter by Angeline Boulley. Daunis Fontaine has never quite fit in at home or on the Ojibwe reservation. When family tragedy strikes, all of Daunis' dreams collapse. Daunis uses her knowledge of science and native medicine to go undercover as a confidential informant with the FBI, what she uncovers makes her question everything she's ever known. Will Daunis be strong enough to survive?

If you would like to join our discussion, please contact Julie Burton at 262-639-5914 for a ZOOM link. For May, we are planning our reading and discussing, The Guncle by Steven Rowley.

Finance Update

<u>February 2024</u>		<u>Year to Date 2024</u>	
Revenue:	\$39,430.07	Revenue:	\$106,962.87
Expenses:	\$46,325.71	Expenses:	\$95,151.11
Net Income:	\$(-6,895.64)	Net Income:	\$11,811.76

Third Tuesday Bible Study

The study of the Gospel of Mark will meet April 16th by Zoom. The discussion will focus on Mark 10:1 to 10:27, pages 275 - 288. Everywhere Jesus went, crowds came to him looking for him to teach them. Verses 10:1-12 deals with adultery and divorce. William Barclay explains that “the loose sexual morality of his day must be mended” (page 279). Marriage is a responsibility and a spiritual unity.

It struck me as significant that these verses are followed by children being brought to Jesus for him to touch them (page 280). Even Barclay suggests that Jesus must have taken time to laugh and enjoy them. Then Barclay lists the characteristics of children that we grownups should adopt. We should have humility, obedience, trust, and a short memory of being treated unfairly.

Again, following the example of children, a rich man comes to Jesus and asks, “what am I to do to inherit eternal life?” (page 282). Ahh. Jesus asks all of us what have we done to serve others? Barclay points out that to be respectable is not taking away from others. But to be Christian is to GIVE to others! Part of that giving is in our church offering. Then, what does our church do with that offering?

Our lesson concludes with Mark 10:23-27. Trusting in money makes it very difficult to enter the kingdom of heaven. Salvation is not because of what we have, but a gift from God.

April 16th our study of Mark will look at Mark 10:1 to 10:27 and pages 275 to 288 in Barclay. We will meet by Zoom from 10:00 until 11:30. We hope April showers will bring rain and not snow.

Everyone with an April birthday is invited to join us in the lounge
on **Thursday, April 11th** at 10:00 a.m. for a cup of coffee, a
birthday donut, a cup of coffee, and some fun conversation as
we celebrate you! Hope to see you there!



Ketchup Club



We would love to have you join us at one of our Ketchup Club outings. It is a great time to socialize and “catch-up” with old friends, make some new ones, and have some great conversations. In April we will meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Charcoal Grill, 8300 Washington Avenue on Tuesday, April 23rd. To help us know how big a table we need, please let Pastor Laura (pastorlaura.hclc@gmail.com), or Heidi (office.hclc@gmail.com) know by Sunday, April 21st, if you’re able to join us. But if you should unexpectedly find yourself free that day we will happily make some room, so please come join us! Hope to see you there! ☺

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!



Men's Fellowship

Men's Group

The men's group meets at 9:00 a.m. on the second Friday of the month. They meet with Pastor Mark in the lounge at 9:00 a.m. and all men are welcome to come join in the conversation! This month they will meet on Friday, April 12th.

Save the Date!

Hard to believe, but summer is coming,
and that means our **2nd Annual Church Picnic!**

The picnic will be **Sunday, August 11th** at Pershing Park.

Mark your calendars, and watch for more information to come!



Medical Equipment Lending Closet



Did you know we have a lending closet with medical equipment such as canes, walkers, shower chairs, etc. for people to borrow? Often these items are needed only for a short time after an illness or surgery, and they can be costly to purchase. You can borrow an item for as long as you need it. We only have one or two of some items, so availability does vary. If you need an item, call the church office, 632-8802, and we will check to see if there is one available for you to borrow.

If you have medical equipment you no longer need, you can donate it to our lending closet. You can bring them items in any time the office is open, or on Sunday mornings.

Quilting Group



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.

Our quilters meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. You do not need to have any prior quilting experience to help! For more information, call Linda Holmquist, 633-0032, or Evelyn Lajiness, 634-0527.

Shop With Scrip

Look for the Scrip table on Sunday mornings. There you can buy or order gift cards for grocery stores, gas stations, department stores, restaurants, online retailers, and even hotels and other travel related businesses. Scrip is an easy way for you to support the church as you do your day to day shopping. You pay the face value of the card and get to spend the full value of the card. HCLC purchases the cards for a discounted rate so we earn a percentage of each purchase. There are lists of the participating retailers in the Welcome Center and on the tables at the back of the sanctuary. Scrip cards make great gifts and are easy to tuck into greeting cards for any occasion!

Visit the Scrip table if you have any questions or contact Kylee Albright at kygregg@me.com.

Giving With Tithe.ly

If you open your cell phone camera, focus on the QR code to the right and click on the screen, it will take you to a web page where you can make a donation to HCLC through Tithe.ly with your credit card or bank account. You can choose to make 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, and she will help you sign up.



Thank you to everyone who ordered the beautiful flowering plants in our Easter garden.

Jo Nissen in memory of Wally Nissen

Jo Nissen in memory of Valery Petersen

Jill Vander Brug in memory of Cornelius and Mariane Vander Brug

Jill Vander Brug in memory of Ray, Jeltje, Peter and Corine Lynn Vander Brug

Jill Vander Brug in memory of Achille and Harriet Grenier and Eleanor and Jeffrey Bostetter

Her family in memory of Dawn Barootian

Her family in memory of Florence Svendsen

His family in memory of Viggo Svendsen

Her family in honor of Alice Barootian

His family in honor of Joakim Barootian

The Jansen & Buhler families in memory of Gayland & Shirley Zickert

Laura & Todd Jansen in honor of Carrie Jansen

Their loved ones in memory of Dick & Effie Reitsma

His loved ones in memory of Dave Fox

Their loved ones in memory of Art & Evy Fox

Bill Beckett Sr. and family in memory of beloved wife, mother, and grandmother Josephine Beckett.

The #Chavezstrong family in memory of beloved husband, father and grandfather, Domingo Chavez

Carol Riekema in memory of her husband, Vernon Riekema

Joni Reske in memory of her husband Stan

Joni Reske in memory of her parents

Ms. Kate in honor of HCLC's wonderful kids

Gloria Dobrowski and family in loving memory of Don Dobrowski

Gloria Dobrowski in honor of her kind and wonderful family

Kathy and the Cuccio family in loving memory of Joe Cuccio

Sally McReynolds in memory of Judy & Earl Born

Sally McReynolds in memory of Sandy Bisotti

Cheryl Davis in memory of her parents, Arlene & Jerry Howe

Cheryl Davis in memory of her sister Sandra Krogh

Cheryl Davis in memory of her daughter Michele (Davis) Kellner

The Fergus and Veltman families in loving memory of Jim & Ruth Fergus

Jean Veltman in honor of Heidi Komistra for all she does for HCLC



Christine Monreal in memory of her father, Ronald Schindhelm
Christine Monreal in memory of her mother, Shirley Schindhelm
Susan Barbee and family in loving memory of Robert Barbee
Susan Barbee and family in memory of Susan's parents, Sherman and Margie Scherer
Lori Neu in memory of her mother, Elinor Samarzea
Amy Larsen and Bob & Karen Larsen in memory of Ed and Mary Larsen.
Amy Larsen and Bob & Karen Larsen in memory of Jim Larsen
Barb Maier in memory of Thelma Floyd
Susan Anderson in honor of her family, past, present, and future
Linda & Wayne Holmquist in memory of Kenneth & Edna Sorensen and Ben & Ione Holmquist
Lynn Sinclair in memory of JoAnn Schwartz and Kathy Fischer
The Sinclair family in memory of our loved ones
The Johnson family in loving memory of Dolly Johnson
Karen Johnson and their loving family in memory of Elmer & Mae Fiskum
Carol, Faith, and Grace in memory of Pastor George & Adeline Overdier
Leland Holm in memory of Lynne Holm
Stacey & Jim Black in memory of their parents, Bettie, George, and Jim
Stacey & Jim Black in honor of their sons Garrett and Mason
Stacey & Jim Black in honor of the people of Holy Communion
Jim & Joleen Carlson with love in honor of their daughter, Courtney Carlson
Marianne Lawson in memory of her mother, Beverly Howard
Linda Jensen in memory of her parents Harvey & Jeanette Jensen
Linda Jensen in memory of her sister Diana Lyn Jensen
Greg & Kathy Berg in memory of David & Beverly Berg
Greg & Kathy Berg in memory of Janet Gall
Greg & Kathy Berg in honor of all the talented and dedicated musicians of Holy Communion
Pam & Giles Hargrove in loving memory of Jack Luedtke
Pam & Giles Hargrove with love in honor of Connie Luedtke
Heidi & Mark Komistra in memory of George & Naomi Hahner and William & Gertrude Komistra
Heidi & Mark Komistra in honor of their grandchildren Amelia, Cooper, and Adeline
Patti MacDougall and family in memory of George MacDougall
Patti MacDougall and family in memory of Winifred MacDougall
Kathy Vachalik in memory of Marge Galbraith and Ken Galbraith

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed 1:00 Food Pantry	2 Office Closed	3 6:30 Racine Theatre Guild (MHR)	4	5 1:00 Food Pantry	6 1:00 Racine Theatre Guild (MHR)
7 O the Joy 9:30 Worship/Sunday School 1:00 Racine Theatre Guild (MHR)	8 10:00 Bible Study 1:00 Food Pantry	9 1:00 Quilters	10 10:00 Book Club 6:30 Racine Theatre Guild (choir room)	11 10:00 Birthday Club	12 9:00 Men's Group 1:00 Food Pantry	13
14 Setting 8 9:30 Worship/Sunday School 11:00 First Communion Class 11:00 2nd -8th Grade Youth 12:00 Confirmation Class 1:00 RTG (MHR)	15 10:00 Bible Study 1:00 Food Pantry	16 10:00 Third Tuesday Bible Study	17	18	19 1:00 Food Pantry May Chalice Deadline	20
21 We Are Called 9:30 Worship/Sunday School 12:00 Confirmation Class	22 10:00 Bible Study 1:00 Food Pantry	23 11:30 Ketchup Club 1:00 Quilters	24	25	26 1:00 Food Pantry	27
28 Setting 10 9:30 Worship/Sunday School 11:00 Youth Gathering Mtg. 12:00 Confirmation Class	29 10:00 Bible Study 1:00 Food Pantry	30				

April 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.

	April 7 9:30 am	April 14 9:30 am	April 21 9:30 am	April 28 9:30 am
Greeter	Carol Riekema	Sally Neitzel Thom Bodenbach	Christine Monreal	Jo Nissen
Lector	Lynn Sinclair	David Knudson	Jim Carlson	Steve Barootian
Communion Assistants	Roger Degerman Joni Reske	Jean Veltman David Knudson	Joleen Carlson Sheri Krenzke	Don Lautz Steve Barootian
AV Technicians	Todd Jansen	Lynn Helmke	Kylee Albright	Lynn Helmke
Coffee Fellowship		Shelley Lussmyer	Sally Neitzel Laura Kozenski	
Councilperson In Charge	Jim Black	Laurie Knudson	Joleen Carlson	Kylee Albright
Ushers	Jim Carlson, Roger Degerman, David Leisner, Gary Wood			
Altar Guild	Susan Barbee, Val Conner, Barb Salvo			

Altar Flowers

April 7 - In memory of Sarah Lajiness given by Evelyn, Tom, and Mark Lajiness
April 14 - In memory of Wally Nissen given by Jo Nissen
April 21 - In memory of Ed Larsen on his birthday given by Bob, Karen, and Amy Larsen
In honor of their 15th wedding anniversary, given by David & Laurie Knudson
April 28 - In memory of Dawn Barootian given by her family
In memory of Robert Barbee, loved and missed by Susan and family

The Chalice **April, 2024**

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.

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