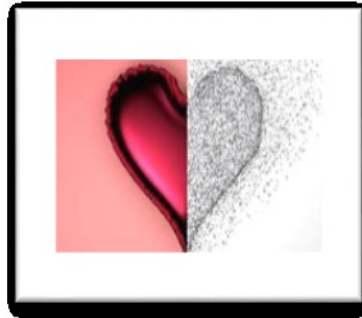


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A Valentine Ash Wednesday

This year, Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of our Lenten journey, falls on February 14th...Valentine's Day. A day often set aside for chocolates and flowers...pajama grams and cupids...all of which can be good...but also, can be fleeting.

Perhaps it's fitting that they fall on the same day... for the very essence of our God...is love. But God's love is anything but fleeting...it is eternal...it is life-giving...it is hope-filled! It is not based on what we've done or left undone. It simply is...always and forever...a gift. An unending, true blessing, undeserved gift.

Many of us are familiar with John 3:16...in fact, many of us have that verse memorized. However, you may not have seen in it in this way...God indeed gave each of us a valentine...forever and always...you are so loved my friends!

For God so lo**V**ed the world

th**a**t he gave

his on**l**y Son,

so that **e**veryone

who believes **i**n him

may no**t**

per**i**sh, but may

have eter**n**al

lif**e**.

A Blessed Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday to you all...

Pastor Laura

Annual Congregational Meeting

Please plan to stay after the 9:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, February 11th for our annual congregational meeting. We will look back on 2023, discuss the 2024 budget, and elect council members.



Help Wanted: Join Our Church Council!



Are you passionate about making a difference? Do you have ideas for creating positive change and fostering a welcoming, inclusive environment? If so, we invite you to become a vital part of our Church Council!

Responsibilities:

- Collaborate with a diverse team to shape the direction and initiatives of Holy Communion.
- Offer insights, guidance, and innovative ideas for community outreach, events, and support programs.
- Help facilitate decision-making processes that align with Holy Communion's mission, values and goals.
- Act as a liaison between the congregation and church leadership to ensure effective communication and understanding.

Qualifications:

- Enthusiasm for contributing to the growth and well-being of Holy Communion.
- Strong communication and teamwork skills.
- Willingness to commit time and effort to attend meetings and participate in planning sessions.
- Respect for diverse perspectives and a commitment to inclusivity.

Perks:

- The opportunity to make a meaningful impact and inspire positive change.
- Collaborate with a dedicated team of individuals passionate about serving others.
- Personal and spiritual growth through community engagement and leadership development.
- Deepen your connection with Holy Communion and its mission.

Join us in creating a warm, compassionate, and thriving community where everyone feels valued and supported. Your voice and ideas matter!

To Apply: If you're excited about this opportunity to serve and grow with us, please reach out to anyone on the Church Council or any one of the Pastors.

Kylee Albright	Jim Black	Joleen Carlson
Dave Knudson	Laurie Knudson	Andy Larson
Rebecca Mason	Polly Timmerman	



The Children's Chalice



Holy Communion Lutheran Church February, 2024

FAMILY FIRST COMMUNION preparation classes (3) will be held on:

February 25th, March 10th and April 14th at 11:00 a.m.

The First Communion celebration will take place on May 5th at the 9:30 a.m. service.

If you believe your child(ren) are ready to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion

and your family would like to be a part of this year's class,

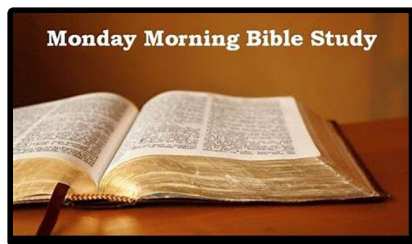
please contact Lisa Lequia at sundayschool.hclc@gmail.com.

Happy Valentine's Day...remind your children they are

GOD'S VALENTINE!



Hope you'll be able to join us for our....



Following winter break, our study begins once again on Monday, February 5th, at 10:00AM ☺.

We meet together in the lounge and begin with a time of prayer. This spring, our study will continue to focus on the upcoming gospel reading for each Sunday.

Hope you're able to join us and if you have any questions, please contact Pastor Laura (pastorlaura.hclc@gmail.com)

Finance Update

December Numbers

Revenue: \$91,279.75
Expense: \$55,876.09
Net Income: \$35,403.66

2023 Year-to-date umbers

Revenue: \$560,936.41
Expense: \$539,848.13
Net Income: \$21,088.28



Our Youth Groups will be meeting in the month of February 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, February 4th, 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, February 18th, from 11:00-12:00** for an awesome and amazing time of fun, fellowship and learning. Snacks will be provided.



We'll be gathering together on **Friday, February 2nd (6:00-7:00)**, for a pizza party in the youth room! We're going to talk about upcoming fundraising events and share more information regarding the Gathering itself (including flight and hotel info ☺).

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

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.



Everyone with a February birthday is invited to join us in the lounge on **Thursday, February 8th** 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 has moved to the second Thursday of the month!)* Hope to see you there!



Cooking Class With Stacy Joers February 20th

Join us for another of Staci Joers fabulous cooking classes at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 20. Staci will prepare a menu of delicious classics featuring Arancini (fried risotto stuffed with mozzarella) served with five- minute Marinara, Beef Bourguignon, Rice Pilaf, and Cannoli Pudding. The cost of the class is \$23. You get a printout of the recipes and get to see Staci demonstrate how she prepares everything, and best of all, you get to taste all the dishes. These classes are so much fun and have sold out in the past. As of Friday, January 26th, we have only 6 seats left, so, if you are interested, call or email the office right away!



Ketchup Club



Our Ketchup Club outings have been so much fun! It is a wonderful to be able to socialize and “catch-up” with one another. It is a friendly, welcoming group and we would love to have more of you come join the lively conversations and share a few laughs, to catch up with some old friends or meet some new ones! Since our January lunch at Aries Café was canceled due to the weather, we decided to meet there for our February gathering.

We will meet for lunch at 11:30 at the Aries Café, 4713 Douglas Avenue, (the old Honeybees Restaurant) on Tuesday February 27th. To help us know how many seats to reserve, please let Pastor Laura (pastorlaura.hclc@gmail.com), or Heidi (office.hclc@gmail.com) know by Sunday January 21st, if you're able to join us. But if you should unexpectedly find yourself free that day we will happily pull up another chair, so please come join us! Hope to see you there! ☺

Third Tuesday Bible Study

During these next three months, our study of the Gospel of Mark will be held by Zoom. Most of you have had this communication before so it won't be difficult to adjust. I'll get on line about ten minutes early to see if we can all see each other. Don has to help me!

We will begin our study on page 265 with “Rewards and Punishments” (Mark 9:41-9:42). Mark encourages us with the promise that God rewards any kindness or help extended to another person. Then he also lets us know that anything done to cause a child to stumble will be punished.

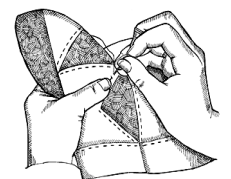
This is followed by “The Goal Which Is Worth Any Sacrifice” (Mark 9:43). This is quite a strong judgement! If your hand, or your foot, or your eye causes you to stumble it is better to cut it off!! It is certainly clear that nothing can come between us and obedience to the will of God. Real happiness and real peace comes from an unhindered closeness to God.

Mark 9:49-50 talks about The Salt Of the Christian Life” (page 271-274). Salt adds flavor and purity to our food. And Christians bring the flavor of a meaningful life to a weary world. Enjoy a life at peace with one another and blessed with good will.

What a positive message as we begin the new year. February 20th from 10:00 to 11:30 our study of the Gospel of Mark will meet by Zoom to discuss Mark 9:41 to 9:50. See you there.

Quilting Group

Our quilters will meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays from 1:00 - 3:00 to work on quilts for Lutheran World Relief. LWR distributes the quilts around the world when disaster strikes or war drives families from their homes. 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. In February they will be meeting on the 13th and 27th. They would love to have more help and everyone is welcome to join them. You don't have to have any prior quilting experience to help! Call Linda Holmquist, 633-0032, or Evelyn Lajiness, 634-0527, if you have any questions about the group.



QUILTING GROUP



Ash Wednesday and Lenten Worship Services

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. We invite you to join for an Ash Wednesday worship service, at 9:30 a.m. or 7:00 p.m.

On the next five Wednesdays (February 21, 28, and March 6, 13, and 20) we will gather for a Lenten worship at 7:00 p.m. Please consider joining us for supper at 6:00 in the Mark Hurn room.



Lenten Suppers

Beginning on Wednesday, February 21st, we invite all of you to join us for our Lenten Suppers.

We'll gather together in the Mark Hurn Room (a.k.a. basement/fellowship hall) from 6:00-6:45 and enjoy a delicious meal together before heading into worship that begins at 7:00.

This year, our 2024 Youth Gathering Participants will be hosting and serving the meal. A Free-Will Offering will be received and all proceeds will go towards the funding of the Gathering. We hope you're able to join us for this time of wonderful fellowship, a yummy meal, and a fabulous way to support our youth.

Men's Group

Pastor Mark is leading a Men's Group on the second Friday of each month. They meet in the lounge at 9:00 and have had some wonderful discussions. This month they will meet on Friday, February 9th and they would be pleased to have you join them!

For the book club's February meeting, we will be discussing The Confession by John Grisham. The novel is about the murder of a high school cheerleader and how an innocent man was arrested for the crime. Donte Drumm is convicted of the crime and sentenced to death. The real murder, Travis Boyette, flees to Kansas. Ten years later, suffering from terminal brain cancer, Travis feels it is time to confess. Despite Travis's confession, Donte's execution proceeds. Can Donte be saved? Will Travis, who is a serial attacker, be found guilty?



We will be meeting Wednesday, February 14 at 11am. Note the time change - February 14 is Ash Wednesday. We will be meeting on ZOOM! If you want to join our discussion, please call Julie Burton at 262-639-5914 to get the necessary link. Our book for March 13 is The Five Wounds by Kirstin Valdez Quade. Again we will be meeting by ZOOM.



WHAT WENT UP, CAME DOWN - THANK YOU!

We asked for help after the service on January 7 taking down the trees and decorations in the sanctuary, lounge and narthex and help you did!

Wow! What a turn out! Everything that needed to come down was down quickly and efficiently.

We had so many helpers, it was amazing!

We didn't get a chance to get a list so from the Worship and Music team to all of you who helped a **HUGE HEARTFELT THANK YOU!**



For the month of February the pantry is asking for donations of chicken noodle soup, tomato soup, spaghetti's . peanut butter, and cereal. They can always use brown paper grocery bags and clean, lightly used plastic bags. If you have greeting cards or pens and pencils that you do not need our clients are very grateful to receive them.

For many years we have offered our clients devotional booklets and we have had many requests for Bibles and children's Bible storybooks and inspirational books. People are not just physically hungry, they are spiritually hungry too. If you have any Bibles or children's Bible storybooks we would be grateful to get them in the pantry. These do not have to be

new - used books are fine!

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

Prayer Team

How can we pray for you? Our prayer team wants to pray for you and all those you lift up in prayer. Do you ever think or say, "God please help me!" (Or help my mom, my child, a friend or the world.) Perhaps someone is weighing heavy on your mind, is ill or having surgery. Are you thankful or joyful for an occurrence in your life? Please share these thoughts using the wooden prayer box on the table in the back of the church. You can email them to Amy Larsen amylarsen2406@att.net or call or email the church office. 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.

Prayer changes things!



"Pray, and let God worry." – Martin Luther



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.

Volunteer Opportunities

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.

Easter Garden Plant Order

1. Easter Lily



2. Tulip



3. Hyacinth



4. Mum



5. Regal Geranium



6. Committee
Choice

What a beautiful sight it is to see our sanctuary on Easter morning filled with flowering plants. The choice of plants this year include Easter Lilies, Tulips, Hyacinths, Mums, and Regal Geraniums. We are ordering the plants from Milaeager's. The Tulips, Hyacinths, and Mums will be in assorted colors. If there is not a specific plant you want, you can order "committee's choice" and a plant will be chosen to balance the color and variety of our display on Easter morning.

- Orders **MUST** be in the office no later than **Wednesday, February 21st.**
- Each flowering plant costs \$15.00. You may order as many as you would like.
- Plants may be picked up after the last service on Easter Sunday or the following week.
- Please refer to the numbers above the pictures when choosing your plants.
- Any questions? Call the office, 262-632-8802 or email Heidi at office.hclc@gmail.com

Your name _____ Env. # _____

I will pick up my plants _____

Total Amount Enclosed _____ Number of Plants Ordered _____

In Memory of:	From:	Flower Number Or Name
In Honor or Celebration of:	From:	Flower Number Or Name

There are still many open dates for altar flowers. No one is signed up for February 18 and 25, April 30, May 26, June 16, 23 and 30, July 7, 14, and 21, Sept. 29, October 27, November 3 and December 8, 15, and 22. There is room for a second vase of flowers most weeks. To sign up, please return the form below to the church office with your check or visit the scrip table on Sunday morning.



The cost of each vase is \$25.00. If you wish you may pick the flowers up after the service. Fill out the form below and note what you wanted printed in the bulletin about who the flowers are in memory/honor of and who they are from. Please list one or two alternate dates in case your preferred date is filled. If your preferred date is filled, the office will let you know which date your flowers will be in church.

Your Name _____ Env. Number _____

Number of vases ordered _____ Total enclosed _____

Given in honor/memory of _____

Given by _____

Preferred Date _____ I will pick up my flowers _____

Alternate Dates _____

Given in honor/memory of _____

Given by _____

Preferred Date _____ I will pick up my flowers _____

Alternate Dates _____

Hospital Visitation

Please remember to contact the church office if you or a family member is hospitalized, in a nursing home, or becomes home bound. **Due to HIPPA privacy laws, medical facilities cannot release information on their patients, so the church will not know you have been ill.** You can decide if you want to receive a visit or have your name on the prayer list read in church. If you wish, along with the visits we will add your/their name to the mailing list for the newsletters and the wonderful holiday cards from our Sunday School students. If you notice a friend or someone who usually sits near you in church is not attending for a stretch, we would like you to tell us that too, so we can check in with them. You can contact the church office by email, office.hclc@gmail.com, or by phone, 262-632-8802.



CONNECTED BY LOVE

God's Word is filled with messages about love,
which connects us to God and to one another.

*Directions: Draw a line from the beginning of each Bible verse
(on the left side) through the heart to the rest of the verse
(on the right side). Use the Scripture references for help.*

- a. We
- b. Above all,
- c. My command
is this:
- d. And over all
these virtues
put on
- e. Greater
- f. See what
great
- g. There is
no fear in



- 1. each other as I have
loved you. John 15:12
- 2. has no one than this: to
lay down one's life for
one's friends. John 15:13
- 3. But perfect love drives
out fear. 1 John 4:18
- 4. each other deeply,
because love covers
over a multitude of sins.
1 Peter 4:8
- 5. the Father has lavished
on us, that we should
be called children of
God! 1 John 3:1
- 6. because he first loved
us. 1 John 4:19
- 7. which binds them all
together in perfect
unity. Colossians 3:14

Answers: a 6, b 4, c 1, d 7, e 2, f 5, g 3

Puzzle!

After solving the equations, write the words on the
correct numbered lines below. Complete Ephesians 1:3 (NIV)
to discover how God shows his great love for us.

- 14 - 7 = ___ Father
- 10 + 9 = ___ heavenly
- 9 + 9 = ___ the
- 12 + 12 = ___ blessing
- 2 - 1 = ___ Praise
- 7 + 7 = ___ has
- 11 + 11 = ___ every
- 13 + 13 = ___ Christ
- 8 + 8 = ___ us
- 10 + 10 = ___ realms
- 8 + 9 = ___ in
- 5 + 5 = ___ Lord
- 10 + 11 = ___ with

- 10 + 15 = ___ in
- 10 - 5 = ___ God
- 6 - 3 = ___ to
- 12 - 6 = ___ and
- 6 + 6 = ___ Christ
- 18 - 9 = ___ our
- 22 - 11 = ___ Jesus
- 1 + 1 = ___ be
- 7 + 6 = ___ who
- 2 + 2 = ___ the
- 10 + 5 = ___ blessed
- 4 + 4 = ___ of
- 10 + 13 = ___ spiritual

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22		
23	24	25	26		

Ephesians 1:3, NIV

Answer: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Ephesians 1:3, NIV

Refocus for Lent

- Give up complaining — focus on gratitude.
- Give up harsh judgments — think kind thoughts.
- Give up worry — trust God to provide.
- Give up discouragement — be full of hope.
- Give up bitterness — turn to forgiveness.
- Give up hatred — return good for evil.
- Give up anger — be more patient.
- Give up pettiness — become more tolerant.
- Give up sin — turn to virtue.
- Give up giving up — persevere.

Bible Quiz

Use one word (perhaps in different forms) for all
the blanks to complete this Scripture passage:

"Dear friends, let us ___ one another,
for ___ comes from God. Everyone
who ___ has been born of God and knows
God. Whoever does not ___ does not know
God, because God is ___."

- A. believe
- B. help
- C. love
- D. forgive



Answer: C (See 1 John 4:7-8, NIV)

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 1:00 Food Pantry 6:00 Youth Gathering Participants Pizza Party	3
4 <i>We Are Called</i> 9:30 Worship & Sunday School 11:00 2nd - 5th Grade Youth	5 10:00 Bible Study 1:00 Food Pantry	6	7	8 10:00 Birthday Club	9 9:00 Men's Group 1:00 Food Pantry	10
11 <i>Setting 8</i> 9:30 Worship & Sunday School 10:30 Annual Congregational Meeting	12 10:00 Bible Study 1:00 Food Pantry 6:30 Worship & Music Team	13 1:00 Quilting Group	14 9:30 Ash Wednesday Worship 10:00 Book Club 7:00 Ash Wednesday Worship	15	16 1:00 Food Pantry March Chalice Deadline	17
18 <i>O The Joy</i> 9:30 Worship & Sunday School 11:00 6th - 8th Grade Youth	19 10:00 Bible Study 1:00 Food Pantry	20 10:00 Third Tuesday Bible Study 6:00 Cooking Class	21 6:00 Lenten Supper 7:00 Lenten Worship Easter Plant Order Deadline	22	23 1:00 Food Pantry	24
25 <i>Setting 3</i> 9:30 Worship & Sunday School 11:00 Family First Communion Preparation Class	26 10:00 Bible Study 1:00 Food Pantry	27 11:30 Ketchup Club at Aries Cafe 1:00 Quilting Group	28 6:00 Lenten Supper 7:00 Lenten Worship	29		

February 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.

	February 4 9:30 am	February 11 9:30 am	February 18 9:30 am	February 25 9:30 am
Greeter	Jo Nissen	Lori Neu	Sally Nietzel Tom Bodenbach	Kay Krause
Lector	Linda Godson	Joleen Carlson	Steve Barootian	Jim Black
Communion Assistants	Joan Fergus Jean Veltman	Jim Black Joleen Carlson	Don Lautz Steve Barootian	Sheri Krenzke Roger Degerman
AV Technicians	Kylee Albright	Lynn Helmke	Todd Jansen	Barb Salvo
Coffee Fellowship	Laura Jansen	Joni Reske	Shelley Lussmyer	Mindy Poffenberger
Councilperson In Charge	Andy Larson	Kylee Albright	Laurie Knudson	Joleen Carlson
Ushers	Dave Barlament, Tim Buhler, Tim Krikau, and Gary Wee			
Altar Guild	Karen Johnson, Cindy Myhre, and Lynn Riekkoff			

Altar Flowers

February 4 - In honor of the HCLC staff given by Jan Behrens
February 11 - In loving memory of Wally Nissen on his birthday, given by Jo Nissen
February 18 - available
February 25 - available

If you would like to order altar flowers for one of the available Sundays, please call the church office at 262-632-8802.

The Chalice **February 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.

Contact Information

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