

Sunday, September 17, 2023
The Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost



...how often should
I forgive?
"Not SEVEN times,
but, I tell you,
SEVENTY-
SEVEN
times."

Matthew 18:21-22, NRSV

Holy Communion Lutheran Church
2000 West Sixth Street
Racine, Wisconsin

O the Joy
A Liturgy Written by Gregory Berg

Special thanks to assisting minister Gary Wee, lector Sheri Krenzke, communion assistants Val Conner and Sheri Krenzke, audio-visual technician Kylee Albright, ushers David Krueger, Steve Barootian, Gary Lequia, and Ed Wosilait, altar guild Sandy Ivanoski, Kay Krause, Joni Reske, and Lori Neu, councilperson in charge David Knudson, coffee fellowship Joni Reske and Susan Anderson, and musicians Elaine Lewis, Betty Petersen, and Gregory Berg for sharing their time and talent today.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

GATHERING SONG

O the Joy

Gregory Berg

O the Joy! O the Joy in know-ing Je - sus. Let us strive to know the Lord. God will re -

ply like show-ers in the Spring-time as sure-ly as the morn - ing dawn. O the

Joy in know-ing Je - sus. Let us strive to know the Lord. God will re - ply like

show-ers in the Spring-time as sure - ly as the morn - ing dawn. God does not de-sire burnt

of - fer-ings. God does not de-sire our sac - ri - fice. God most de-sires our hearts and lives so

that is what we bring, and that is why we sing: "O the Joy!" O the Joy in know-ing Je - sus.

Let us strive to know the Lord. God will re - ply like show-ers in the Spring-time as

sure-ly as the morn-ing dawn. O the Joy in know-ing Je - sus. Let us strive to know the

Lord. God will re - ply like show-ers in the Spring-time as sure-ly as the morn-ing dawn.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God,
the one who forms us,
✠ Jesus who bears the cross,
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.
Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility,
confessing our sin.

Steadfast and faithful God,
**you have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you.**
**We are overwhelmed
by the world's violence and suffering.**
**We are afraid to risk what we have
for the sake of others.**
**For the harm we have caused,
known and unknown, forgive us.**
**For the unjust demands we place on others
and your creation, forgive us.**
**For the ways we turn away
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.**
**Lead us back to you
and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.**
Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God's compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
In ✠ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.
Amen.

GREETING

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

KYRIE

Leader: Let us join as - one as we pray to the Lord, Congregation: **Lord have mer - cy.** For the

peace from a - bove and for our sal - va - tion, **Lord have mer -**

cy. For this ho-ly house and for all who in faith gath-er to wor-ship in this place, that

we may be-hold a - glimpse of your face, **Lord have mer - cy. Lord have mer - cy,**

Christ have mer-cy, Lord have mer - cy. That all of the world may

know your peace, **Lord have mer - cy.** That the poor be re-stored and the

bound re - leased, **Lord have mer - cy.** That the life of the church may be

strong and se-cure anchored and cen-tered - sole-ly on you, and for gui-dance and grace in all that we do,

Lord have mer - cy. Lord have mer - cy, Christ have mer-cy, Lord have mer - cy.

HYMN OF PRAISE

leader

Lord God of pow - er and might, hea-ven and earth are

congregation

Lord God of pow - er and might, hea-ven and earth are

4

full of your glo - ry. Lord God of pow - er and might,

full of your glo - ry. Lord God of pow - er and might,

7

hea-ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. *Fine* Glo - ry, Maj - e - sty, and

(Lord God, Heaven-ly King the

hea-ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. *Fine* Glo - ry, Maj - e - sty,

(Lord God, Heaven-ly King,

11

Praise to Thee be gi - ven. Christ who takes a -

on - ly Son of the Fa - ther)

and Praise to Thee be gi - ven. Christ who takes

the on - ly Son of the Fa - ther)

14

way our sin have mer - cy up - on us. *D.C. al Fine*

a - way our sin have mer - cy up - on us. *D.C. al Fine*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**O Lord God, merciful judge,
you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness.
Replace our hearts of stone
with hearts that love and adore you,
that we may delight in doing your will,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

ANTHEM “*Lord Open Thou Mine Eyes*” John Rutter Senior Choir

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MAY GO TO CHOIR

WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph’s brothers said, “What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?” ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷‘Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.’ Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.” ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 103:8-13

⁸**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**
⁹you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.
¹⁰**You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**
¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.
¹²**As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**
¹³As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Mark Doidge

CHILDREN RETURN TO WORSHIP

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 807

1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas-ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
 let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.

While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.

teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
 he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood.
 Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.
 Music: J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

NETTLETON
 87 87 D

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.

INVITATION SONG

Leader: Come to the ta - ble of the... Congregation: Come to the ta - ble of the Lord to the ta - ble of the...

Come to the ta - ble of the Lord.

Leader: 1.Wine is poured and bread is bro - ken.
2.Have no fear or hes - i - ta - tion,

Words of Institution are spoken here

Hear the gos - pel and pro - mise spo - ken.
Come with hope and ex - pec - ta - tion.

All: Come as fam - 'ly friends and neigh - bors. Come en - count - er Christ the Sa - vior.

Leader: Come to the ta - ble of the... Congregation: Come to the ta - ble of the

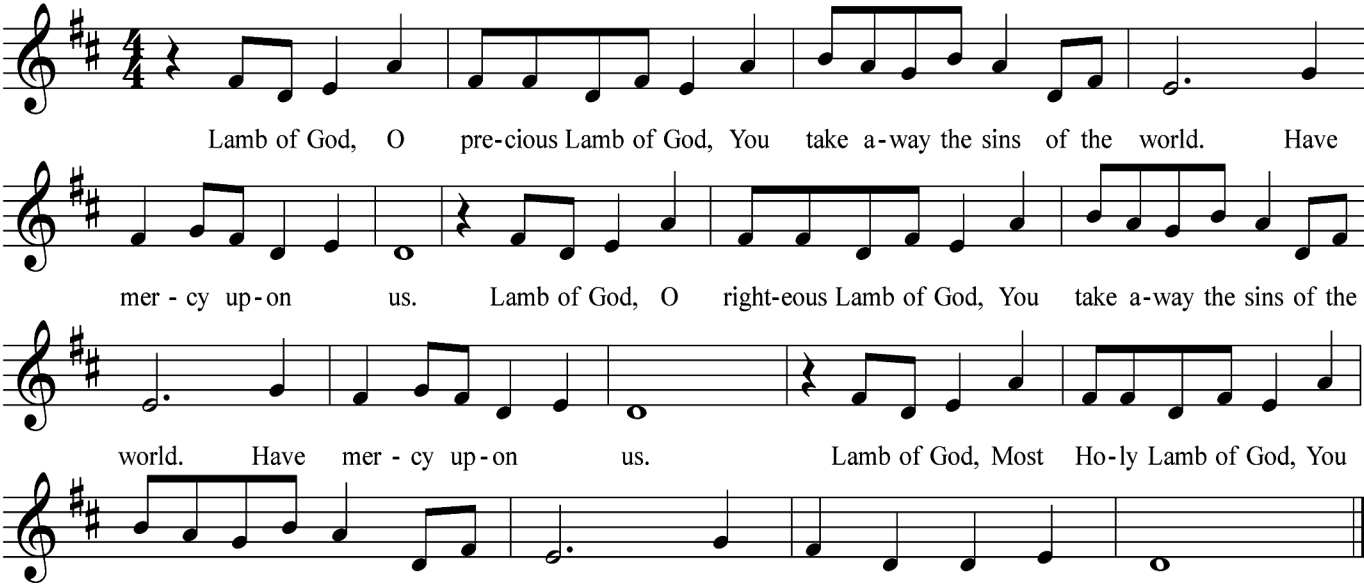
Lord. to the ta - ble of the... Come to the ta - ble of the Lord.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
forever and ever.
Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, O pre-cious Lamb of God, You take a-way the sins of the world. Have
mer - cy up-on us. Lamb of God, O right-eous Lamb of God, You take a-way the sins of the
world. Have mer - cy up-on us. Lamb of God, Most Ho-ly Lamb of God, You
take a - way the sins of the world. Grant to your peo - ple peace.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and keep you in His grace.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

CHILDREN MAY GO TO SUDAY SCHOOL

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Thanks we bring to God a-bove for the bles-sings of His love, shown to us in count-less ways.

That is why we give our praise. Let us thank the Lord. Let us thank the Lord.

Bles-sings sim-ple, bles-sings grand come from God's al-might-y hand, far be-yond what we de-serve.

our thanks and praise be heard. Let us bless the Lord. Let us bless the Lord.

All we are and all we own comes from God and God a-lone!

All the bles-sings we re-ceive, far more than we can con-ceive, lead us then to give and share

with the need-y ev'-ry-where. Let us thank the Lord. Let us thank the Lord.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us bring before our loving God the cares and concerns of our hearts. Let us pray.

We thank you, Loving God, for last week's great celebration for the energy and joy and fun we enjoyed together for the gift of old friends returning to be with us and for the Bishop's eloquent words, reminding us to claim the powerful gift of hope. Galvanize us, O God, to embrace the ongoing work of your kingdom with joyful and grateful hearts. Loving God,

hear our prayer.

We thank you, Loving God, for the blessings that abound in our lives: family, friends, neighbors work and play challenges and triumphs opportunities to learn and to grow and for the world in which we live, full of beauty and bounty. Help us not to take any of these precious blessings for granted, that our gratitude might give way to lives of service and generosity. Loving God,

hear our prayer.

We pray, Loving God, for all for whom we feel special concern today, including those who are complete strangers yet whose sorrow and suffering weighs heavily on our hearts. We especially remember the people of Morocco struggling to rebuild in the wake of the earthquake there. We remember the people of Ukraine and all whose lives are touched by that conflict. We remember those who are homeless or hungry today. Rouse us to action that we might be instruments of your healing. Loving God,

hear our prayer.

We pray, Loving God, for all who are struggling with hurts or impairments in mind, body, or spirit especially those who feel overwhelmed and alone in their struggles. Reveal your presence to them, and bless those who seek to relieve their suffering or bring them to comfort. We especially pray for Loving God,

hear our prayer.

We pray, Loving God, for the children of this congregation - that they may know that they are loved and have an honored place among us. Bless Lisa's ongoing ministry to our children - Bless Kate's ministry of music - and all others who have a hand in sharing the message of your Gospel of Grace in our Sunday School. Bless each and every child in this community of faith, and help them know that they are precious exactly as they are - and help them in turn to discover the sweet joy of loving and accepting others exactly as they are. Loving God,

hear our prayer.

Hear these spoken prayers and the unspoken prayers of our hearts through the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

The God of glory,

✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names,

and the Spirit who lives in you,

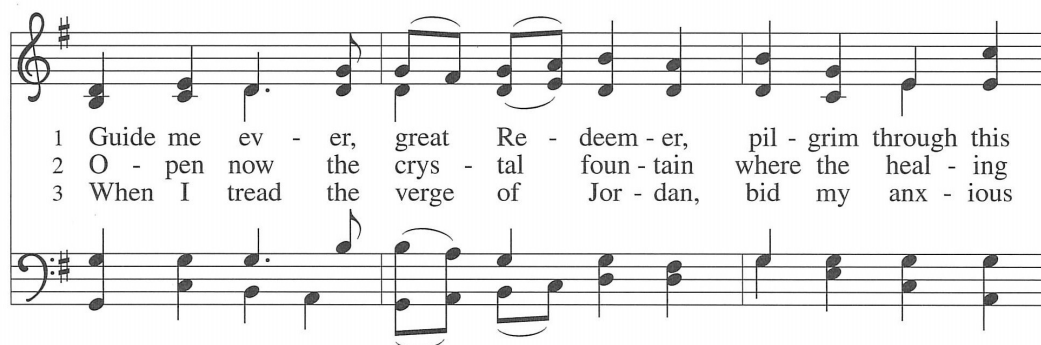
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

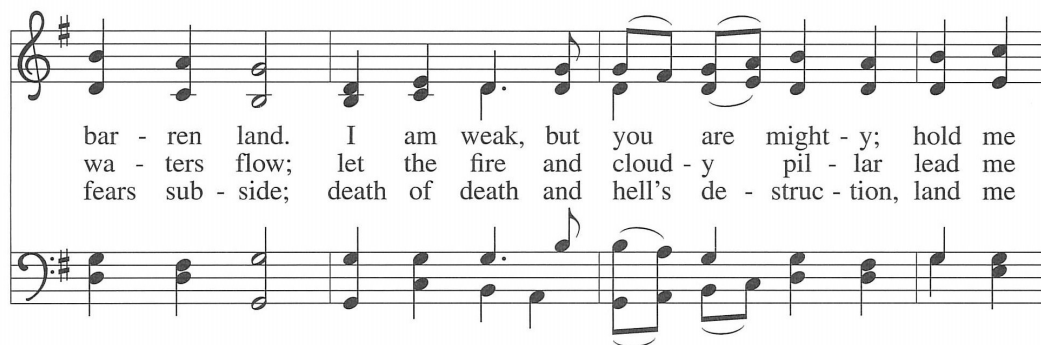
CLOSING HYMN

618

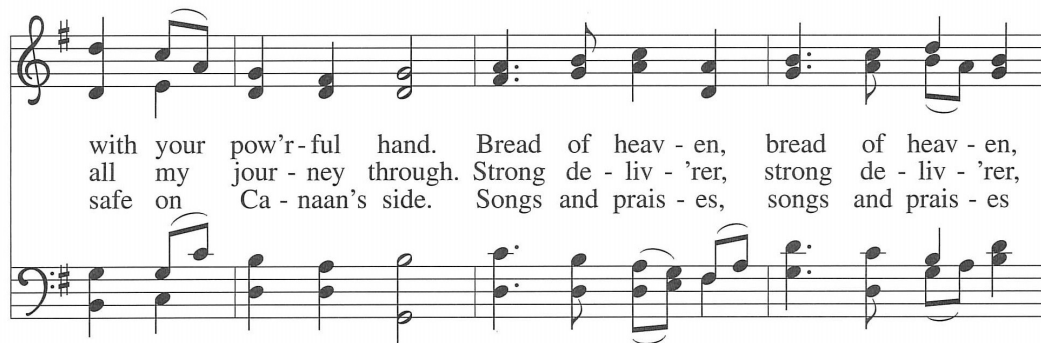
Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer



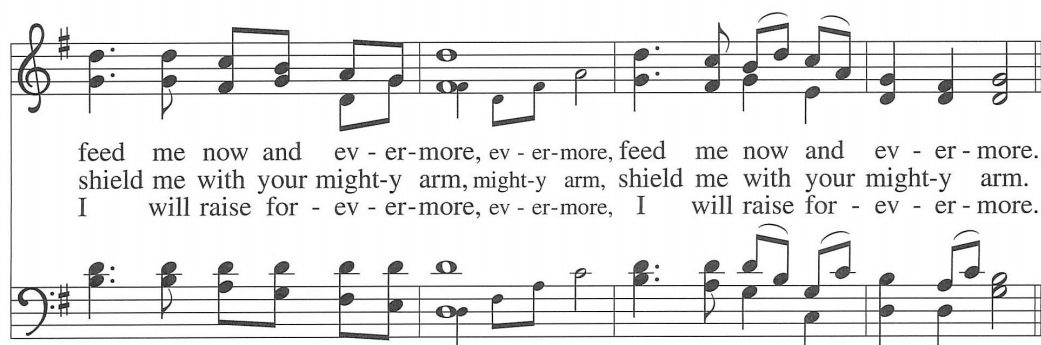
1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



feed me now and ev - er - more, ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
shield me with your might - y arm, might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.
I will raise for - ev - er - more, ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams,
1722–1796, alt.
Music: John Hughes, 1873–1932

CWM RHONDDA
87 87 877

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.
Thanks be to God.

Announcements



Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar this morning were given by Shelley Lussmyer in loving memory of her very beloved sister, Cherlynn Mikkelsen.

Welcome Visitors!

A special welcome to any visitors worshipping with us this morning. Please fill out one of the yellow cards in the pew rack in front of you so we can acknowledge your visit with us. You can put your completed card into the offering plate or give it to an usher or a pastor before you leave.

Communion By Intinction

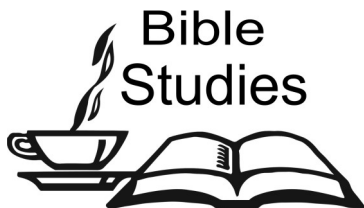
All are welcome to come to the table for Communion. We offer Holy Communion through Intinction (dipping of the wafer into chalice of wine). There are also gluten free wafers and grape juice available in the center. We understand that not everyone will be comfortable with this practice yet, so the individual wafer/juice cups are still available on the tables at the back of the sanctuary if you feel more comfortable taking communion in your pew.

Prayer Requests

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 also call or email the church office with prayer requests or email them to Amy Larsen 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. **Prayer changes things!**

Food Pantry

For September the pantry is asking for donations of **tomato soup, tuna, canned pasta, peanut butter, jelly, and cereal**. We have been serving a large number of clients (356 families, 1279 individuals in August) including many first time clients who have never been to a food pantry before. Due to the high number of clients being served, smaller deliveries from the government and Racine County Food Bank and difficulty buying many of the things we need because of limited supplies at some of the grocery stores, we are running very low on many foods. 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 could not continue this ministry without your help!



Bible Studies

Monday Morning Bible Study

The Monday Morning Bible Study returns tomorrow, Monday, Sept. 18th at 10:00 a.m. The group meets in the lounge and anyone interested is invited to join them. This fall the study will focus on the upcoming gospel reading for each Sunday. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Laura, at pastorlaura.hclc@gmail.com.

Third Tuesday Bible Study

The Third Tuesday Bible study meets this Tuesday, September 19th, from 10:00-11:30, at the home of Julie Burton, 136 Steeplechase Drive. We will be discussing the Gospel of Mark 7:31 to 8:26 and using the study guide of William Barclay, pages 207-221. We read about Jesus' work among the Gentiles including healing a deaf man and a blind man. Beyond that, Barclay tells us to focus on growing in our faith realizing we live among miracles everywhere. All women are invited to join this Bible Study!

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, casual, 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! In September we will meet for lunch at 11:30 at the Red Onion Café, 555 Main Street in downtown Racine on Tuesday, Sept. 26th. So we know how many seats to save, please let either Pastor Laura (pastorlaura.hclc@gmail.com), or Heidi (office.hclc@gmail.com) know by Sunday September 24th, if you’re able to join us. But, if you should unexpectedly find yourself free that day, please come join us! Hope to see you there! ☺

Thank You 125th Anniversary Committee

A very big thank you to the 125th anniversary committee who worked for many months planning the celebration of our 125th anniversary events. From gathering us for a Jello jamboree and ice cream sundaes, to writing trivia questions, making delicious desserts, creating the anniversary ornament, finding and displaying historical photos and documents, inviting honored guests, and organizing the food, decorations, and music for the banquet, and the list goes on and on.... They did a wonderful job commemorating 125 years of this congregation shining God’s light in the world. Additional thanks to the Meredith family for use of Preservation Hall and to the Sturino family for creating the video shown at the banquet. Thank you all!



Scrip and 125th Anniversary Ornaments for Sale After Worship

Scrip cards and 125th Anniversary ornaments will be sold in the lounge after worship. The ornaments are \$10 each and feature the beautiful 125th logo created by Amanda Gaastra.

The friendly folks at the table can help you 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. Because HCLC purchases the cards at a slightly discounted rate, we earn a percentage for each gift card we sell. There are lists of the participating retailers in the Welcome Center and on the tables at the back of the sanctuary. Scrip cards also make great gifts and are easy to tuck into greeting cards for any occasion!

Last Chance to Update Your Contact Information!

If your address, phone number or email address has changed, please contact the office this week! Information will be sent in to Guidebook Publishing before the end of the month for the new telephone directory coming out soon.

Volunteer Opportunities

There is a sign up sheet in the lounge to bring treats for coffee fellowship through the month of February.

A few of our teams of ushers could use more people. The teams work on a rotating schedule, one month on and two months off. Please call the office or email office.hclc@gmail.com if you would like to give it a try!

Our altar guild teams could use some help too. 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.

FINANCE UPDATE

August Finance Numbers

Revenue: \$49,749.85

Expense: \$46,588.54

Net Income: \$3,161.31

Year to Date Finance Numbers

Revenue: \$361,182.92

Expense: \$356,952.53

Net Income: \$4,230.39

