

In This Issue

Relay for Life Luminaries.....	2
Finance Update.....	2
Children’s Chalice.....	3
Youth Ministry Zone.....	3
Youth Led Service Planning.....	4
Food Pantry News.....	4
Third Tuesday Bible Study.....	4
Thank You Easter Decorators.....	5
Thank You From Pat Barlament.....	5
Additions to the Easter Garden.....	5
Book Club.....	5
Ketchup Club.....	5
May Birthday Club.....	5
Graduate Recognition.....	6
Save The Date!.....	6
Volunteers Needed!.....	6
Men’s Fellowship.....	7
Medical Equipment Lending Closet.....	7
Quilting Group.....	7
Shop with Scrip.....	7
Giving With Tithely.....	7
Puzzle Page.....	8
How Can We Pray For You?.....	8
May Calendar.....	9
May Volunteers.....	10
May Altar Flowers.....	10



2024

“I am the vine, you are the branches.

***Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit,
because apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5***

This scripture comes to mind for me in this beautiful time of year...where the buds on the trees are beginning to blossom and many flowers have already bloomed. From the time I was a little girl, it’s been a verse I’ve held close to my heart. I imagine the reason for this is because in the church where I grew up there was a banner...you know one of those old wonderful banners with the felt cut-out letters...and it read...*I am the vine, you are the branches*...and it hung up year round in the sanctuary so I saw it and I read it every Sunday.

I’ve always loved the imagery of the vine and the branches...of being connected to the life-giving source of Jesus. Just the whole idea that we’re not alone in this world...that we’re connected to something bigger than ourselves...much greater than ourselves...and that we’re connected to one another because of Jesus...I don’t know about you...but this has always given me strength and great hope and peace.

A few years back in our Monday Morning Bible Study, we read Max Lucado’s book, *Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic world*. In one of the chapters, he focused on “abiding” and stated how sometimes we focus so much on the producing...we focus so much on the doing...that we forgot what God calls us to do...which is to abide...to remain...to stay connected with God...and with one another. Jesus wants us to be as much a part of him as a branch is to its vine. We are to live in him, cling to him, be a part of him. But life happens doesn’t it...there are times in our lives when that’s difficult. When things happen to us...or to our loved ones...things or events that make us feel completely torn or broken away from the vine...and we find ourselves withering away from Jesus.

Or maybe it’s the times in our lives when we’re tempted to think of ourselves as self-made, self-gifted, self-empowered...it’s as if we want to be nourished without being rooted. Times in our lives when we feel that we don’t need to be connected. When there are more important things to do then spend time working on our connections and relationships with one another, or with God.

But a branch by itself has no life-giving power...a branch can bear no fruit on its own...a branch not connected to the vine eventually withers away and dies.

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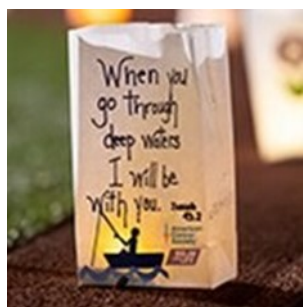
We are the branches, my friends...and although we may try...we really were not created to do this alone...and the good news...is that we do not have to. Listen to these words of Jesus once again. *I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.* Did you hear that promise? Just as Jesus wants us to abide in him, Jesus is also promising to abide in us...*those who abide in me and I in them...praise be to God...that is a gift...that is a blessing...that is good news.* For Jesus...for God always remains in us...and with us...forever and always.

So let us nourish and sustain ourselves daily through this life-giving vine. Let us dwell and abide in God's Word...in God's love...let us be community together...however and whenever we can...let us feel the strength and the hope and the peace and the forgiveness and the courage and the love that we receive from this blessed vine and from others through this blessed vine. Let us flourish and thrive and see the fruits of God's harvest...in our own lives...in our lives together...and in the world!

God's love and peace to you all, my fellow branches...

Pastor Laura

Relay for Life Luminarias - White Bags - \$5



Light a candle in honor of or in memory of a friend or loved one who has had cancer, or in support of a caregiver. Your contribution will help save lives, give hope, and empower people through the American Cancer Society and its lifesaving mission.

The Annual Relay for Life fundraiser for the American Cancer Society will be held Friday, June 7th at Campus Park, 8500 Campus Drive, in Mt. Pleasant. 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 event begins at 6PM. You are invited to stop in and walk to get your extra steps in for the day. There is food and raffles to raise additional money. The Luminarias will be lit about 9:00 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.

Susan Anderson will once again have luminarias for you to purchase and decorate. She plans to have them available after worship on May 19th and June 2nd. 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 6th. Please contact Susan with any questions, susanderson06@att.net or 262- 902-5334 or to make a donation use the QR Code or this [link](#). Thank you!



Finance Update

March 2024

Revenue \$38,495.02
Expense: \$43,265.96
Net Income: \$(4,779.94)

Year to Date 2024

Revenue: \$145,457.89
Expense: \$138,722.66
Net Income: \$6,735.23



Children's Chalice

Holy Communion Lutheran Church May, 2024



HAPPY BAPTISM BIRTHDAY to the following children

who were baptized during the month of May:

Paxton Barbee

Amelia Haakenson

Jameson Gunia

EJ Sparks

CONGRATULATIONS

Asia Doidge, Luke Ricchio and Vincent Ricchio

They have completed First Communion preparation classes and will be receiving their

First Communion on May 5th.

May 19

Last Day of Sunday School Waffle Bar & Fun!



ALL AGE YOUTH PARTY TO KICK OFF SUMMER ☺!!!

Come and join Pastor Mark and Pastor Laura for pizza, popcorn, games and more! We'll gather on **Sunday, May 26th**, from **11:00-12:30...**

can't wait to see you there!!!

CONFIRMANDS

Your day of celebration is quickly approaching and we are so excited for you and your families! Just a reminder that we'll gather together with you and your parent/grandparent for rehearsal on **Sunday, May 5th**, following worship.





“And a child shall lead them...”

HCLC is excited to let its kids and parents/guardians know that a new service which will be led by our young people is in the works. Our talented, thoughtful young people will be helping to compose the service as well as lead it, conducting everything but the sermon. Youth from age 3 - college age are welcome to participate. We are hoping to debut it on Rally Day, September 8th, 2024 which means we will need to rehearse during the summer. Several rehearsal dates will be sent out and the more your children can attend, the better. We have begun learning some of the music on Sundays during our regular rehearsal time, so attending those rehearsals would be helpful too.

Some of the dates to look out for:

1. Early June - a liturgy, prayer writing session with the older kids at Kate's house with Pastor Mark, Pastor Laura, Ms. Kate, and Greg Berg.
2. Music rehearsals at various times in June, July, August.
3. A late August afternoon/early evening “lock in” rehearsal at church to practice the entire service with musicians, sound techs etc.

Any young people who would like to participate as well as adults who would like to lend a hand at rehearsals, the lock-in, etc are asked to contact Kate via text at 262.498.7593 and make sure I have your phone numbers and emails so contact regarding rehearsals, writing sessions, etc can be made. Watch for announcements in the bulletins, Chalice, and emails from HCLC as well.

In the month of March the pantry served 286 households, a total of 968 people. For the month of May the pantry is asking for donations of peanut butter, pancake mix, syrup, jelly, cereal, spaghetti sauce (no spaghetti noodles, please - we have a large amount in stock right now), and chicken noodle soup. 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!



Third Tuesday Bible Study

Our study of the Gospel of Mark will be on May 14th from 10:00 until 11:30. **(Please note the change of date to the second Tuesday this month.)** We will meet at the home of Julie Burton, 136 Steeplechase Drive. The study begins with Mark 10:28 and Peter saying, “Look! We’ve left everything and become your followers.” Yes. For many this has happened. But then you have gained the community of the whole Christian church.

They are on their way to Jerusalem where Jesus is “Approaching the End” (page 291). William Barclay describes the loneliness and courage of Jesus (pages 292 - 293). Then, in bitter contrast, Peter requests that Jesus grant the prestige of sitting at his right hand in glory (10:35). Barclay explains Jesus’ response, “Can you bear to go through the terrible experience which I have to go through?” (Page 297).

This month’s lesson highlights “The Price Of Salvation” (page 298). Jesus tells his disciples, “whoever wishes to be first will be the slave of all” (10:44). Barclay describes the cost of service to our Lord. Then reminds us that the cost of our salvation was Jesus’s death on the cross. WOW. Thank you, Lord.

Tuesday, May 14th, the study of the Gospel of Mark will meet at Julie Burton’s home, 136 Steeplechase Drive, from 10:00 to 11:30. It will be good to meet in person again.

Thank You Easter Decorators



A big, big thank you to Grace Diebert, Lynn Sinclair, Val Conner, Elaine Lewis, Susan Barbee, and Kate Potter Barrow for decorating the sanctuary for Easter. They came in very early on Saturday morning for the plant delivery from Milaeger's and when they left a few hours later the sanctuary was beautifully decorated. Thank you very much!

Thank You from Pat Barlament

Pat Barlament would like to thank everyone who has sent her cards, and get well wishes. Your thoughtfulness has meant so much to her and Dave and they wanted everyone to know how very much she appreciates the messages concern and encouragement. Thank you!



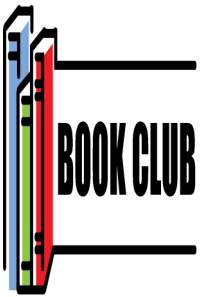
Additional Names for Easter Garden Plants



An apology to these people whose names were accidentally omitted from the Easter Garden list in the Easter bulletin and April Chalice.

Jo Nissen purchased a plant in loving memory of George Nissen.

Cathie Rolfson and Lynn and Chris Litzau purchased plants in memory of Cliff and Vera Rolfson, and in memory of Olive and Henry Maier.



Your book club will meet by Zoom on May 8 at 10:00 to 11:30. We will be discussing The Guncle by Steven Rowley. Patrick O'Hara is a bit out of his league. When tragedy strikes, he becomes the primary guardian of his niece, Maisie, and his nephew, Grant. He is completely overwhelmed! He has a lifestyle that is not suited for a 6 and 9 year old. Patrick's eyes are opened to a new sense of responsibility and the realization that sometimes even being larger than life means you are unfailingly human. If you would like to join the discussion, please contact Julie at jaburton5914@gmail.com to get the Zoom link.

Ketchup Club

We would love to have you join us at one of our Ketchup Club outings. These gatherings are a great time to socialize and "catch-up" with old friends, make some new ones, and have some wonderful conversations. In May we will meet for breakfast at 9:30 a.m. at Meadows Family Restaurant, 10615 Northwestern Ave. Franksville, on Tuesday, May 21st.

To help us know how big a table we need to reserve, please let Pastor Laura (pastorlaura.hclc@gmail.com), or Heidi (office.hclc@gmail.com) know by Sunday, May 19th, 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! ☺



May Birthday Club



Everyone with an May birthday is invited to join us in the lounge on **Thursday, May 9th** at 10:00 a.m. for a cup of coffee, a birthday donut, and some fun conversation as we celebrate you!

Hope to see you there!

Graduate Recognition



We need your help! HCLC is proud of our 2024 graduates and would like to recognize them during the 9:30 worship service on June 2nd and in the June newsletter. If you, or someone in your family is graduating from high school, college, or a technical school program, please fill out the information below and return it to the office by Wednesday, May 22nd by US mail, email (office.hclc@gmail.com), in person, or call the office (262-632-8802). If possible, please provide a picture of the graduate. You can send a digital picture or bring in a photo we can scan. Thank You!

Graduate's Name _____

School _____

Degree Received _____

Plans for the future _____

Will the graduate be able to attend the June 2nd worship service? _____



Save The Date!

Our 2nd annual worship in the park and church picnic will be Sunday, August 11th at Pritchard Park. Mark your calendar and watch for more information to come!

A-V Tech Volunteers:

Would you like to help run the sound board and video cameras for worship service? 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.

Sunday Fellowship Treats

There is a sign up in the lounge for treats for coffee fellowship. Choose a Sunday and bring whatever you'd like, whether it is your special recipe for a home baked goodie or a package of cookies or a kringle you picked up at the bakery or the grocery store.

Altar Guild Team

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.

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, May 10th.

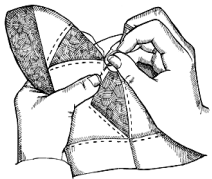
Medical Equipment Lending Closet



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.

The HCLC 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!

The quilters can also use donations of cotton fabric and lightly used full, queen, or king size flat sheets. You can bring these to the office during the week or to church on Sundays. 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. HCLC purchases the cards for a discounted rate so we earn a percentage for every card you purchase. You pay the face value of the card and get to spend the full value of the card. 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 cards for graduations, weddings, or any occasion! Visit the Scrip table if you have any questions or contact Kylee Albright at kygregg@me.com.



Giving With Tithely

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 Tithely 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 can answer your questions and help you sign up.



May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 O the Joy First Communion Sunday 9:30 Worship/Sunday School 10:30 Confirmation Rehearsal	6 10:00 Bible Study 1:00 Food Pantry	7	8 10:00 Book Club (Zoom)	9 10:00 Birthday Club	10 9:00 Men's Group 1:00 Food Pantry	11
12 Setting 3 Mother's Day 9:30 Worship/Sunday School	13 10:00 Bible Study 1:00 Food Pantry 6:30 Worship & Music	14 10:00 Third Tuesday Bible Study 1:00 Quilters	15	16	17 1:00 Food Pantry	18
19 We Are Called Confirmation - Pentecost Sunday 9:30 Worship/Sunday School 10:30 Luminaria bags available	20 June Challice Deadline 10:00 Bible Study Brunch 1:00 Food Pantry	21 9:30 Ketchup Club Meadows Family Restaurant	22	23	24 1:00 Food Pantry	25
26 Setting 4 9:30 Worship 11:00 Youth Pizza Party	27 Memorial Day Office Closed	28 1:00 Quilters	29	30	31 1:00 Food Pantry	

May 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.

	May 5 9:30 am	May 12 9:30 am	May 19 9:30 am	May 26 9:30 am
Greeter	Joni Reske	Sally Neitzel & Thom Bodenbach	Susan Anderson	Jim & Joleen Carlson
Lector	Marianne Jensen	Bob Larsen	Karen Johnson	Gary Wood
Communion Assistants	Roger Degerman Don Lautz	Jean Veltman Bob Larsen	Kate Potter Barrow Karen Johnson	Joni Reske Julie Burton
AV Technicians	Kylee Albright	Todd Jansen	Kylee Albright	Lynn Helmke
Coffee Fellowship	Rose Adamski	Jim Black		Shelley Lussmyer
Councilperson In Charge	Rebecca Mason	Polly Timmerman	Polly Timmerman	David Knudson
Ushers	Jim Buhler, Todd Jansen, Tim Krikau, Gary Wee			
Altar Guild	Sandy Ivanoski, Kay Krause, Lori Neu, Joni Reske			

Altar Flowers

May 5 - In memory of Dave's mom, Nancyann Knudson, given by Dave & Laurie Knudson and given by Jo Nissen.

May 12 - In memory of Marjorie Scherer given with love by her daughter, Susan Barbee

May 19 - In memory of Walter Hermanns given by Lynn Helmke and family

May 26 - In memory of her parents, Veronica & Karl Edman, given by Cindy Myhre

The Chalice **May, 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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