Service of Holy Communion
24th Sunday after Pentecost
Generosity Sunday
November 8, 2026



INTRODUCTION

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the Lamb.

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
The Congregation stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers. **Amen.**

P. Let us confess our sin to God.

The congregation sits or kneels. Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, **we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.**

Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN My Lord, What a Morning ELW 438

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

KYRIE

A. In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

A. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

A. For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

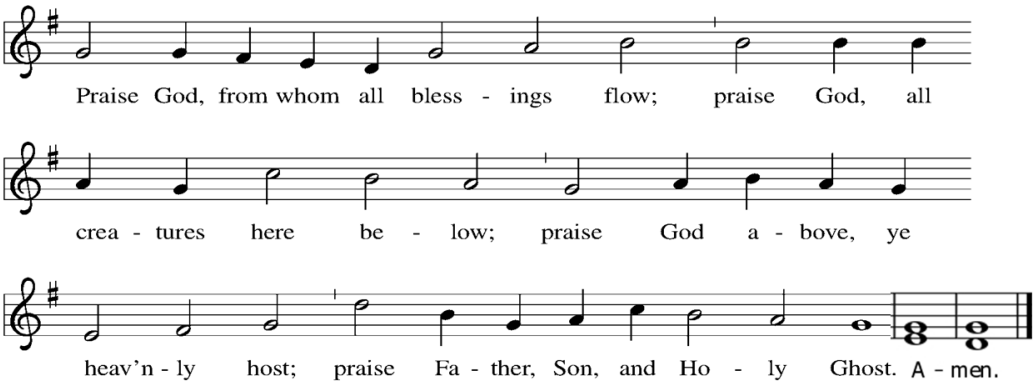
A. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

A. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C. Amen

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Congregation is seated

WORD

FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why do you want the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, not light,
19 as if someone fled from a lion and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall
and was bitten by a snake.
20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?
21 I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
24 But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

A. Word of God, word of life. **C. Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 70 *(read responsively)*

1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;
O LORD, make haste to help me.
2 **Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;**
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.
3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me
turn back because of their shame.
4 **Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;**
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the LORD!"
5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God. You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

SECOND READING: Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters,
about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others
do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and
rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those
who have died. 15 For this we declare to you by the word of the
Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the
Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. 16 For the
Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and
with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and
the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are
left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet
the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever.
18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

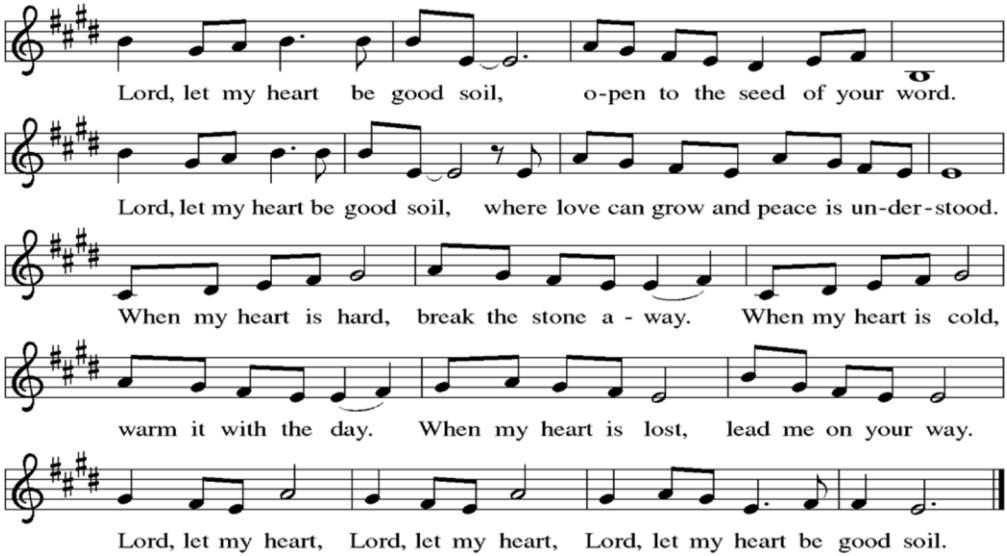
A. Word of God, word of life. **C. Thanks be to God.**

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL & BLESSING THE INTENT CARDS

Children & Youth are invited forward for a special sermon time with Pastor Peggy.

Congregation stands

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13
P. The holy gospel according to Matthew. **C. Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: [1] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3] When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4] but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5] As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. [6] But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7] Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. [8] The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9] But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' [10] And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. [11] Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12] But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' [13] Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

P. The gospel of the Lord. **C. Praise to you, O Christ.**

Congregation is seated

SERMON Waiting & Longing

Congregation stands

HYMN OF THE DAY Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning
ACS 949 *(printed in back)*

APOSTLE'S 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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A. United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A. You illumine the church with the hope of your new day. Prepare our hearts and minds for the inbreaking of your kingdom, that we might awaken to your transforming love at work all around us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A. You create and sustain the earth's natural rhythms so that all life might thrive. Show us the wisdom and wonder of nature's balance; make us careful stewards of our common home. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A. You make justice roll down in all places and among all nations. Encourage all who protect vulnerable communities and help rebuild in the aftermath of conflict. Uphold veterans and those who care for them. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A. You hasten to heal our wounds and make whole what is broken. Comfort individuals facing a difficult diagnosis, receiving palliative care, or facing uncertain treatment options. We pray especially… those we name aloud… and those we hold in our hearts... God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A. You give rest to weary hearts and bodies. As the days grow shorter in the north, help us to move more slowly and intentionally through our days, honoring the need for quiet and stillness. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A. You welcome those who have come before us in faith into the joys of heaven. Sustain us by your grace and guide us into the promise of everlasting life. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P. Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **Amen.**

FARWELL & GODSPEED

In holy baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you a member of his church. When you came to Holy Counselor we rejoiced to welcome you into the mission we share as the people of God. In this community you have come to know and to share in God's loving purpose for you and for all creation. God has blessed you at HCLC, and God has blessed us through you.

Let us pray…Gracious God, we thank you for the work and witness of your servant Dawn, who has enriched this community and shared her gifts with us. Now bless and preserve her at this time of transition. Day by day, guide her and give her what is needed, friends to cheer her way, and a clear vision of that to which you

are now calling her. By your Holy Spirit be present in her pilgrimage, that she may travel with the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God bless us, and direct our days and our deeds in peace. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE
P. The Peace of Christ be with you always.
C. And also with you.
P. Let us share with each other a sign of Christ's peace.

Congregation is seated

CHOIR ANTHEM In the Quietness *Gary Lanier*

MEAL

OFFERTORY INVITATION

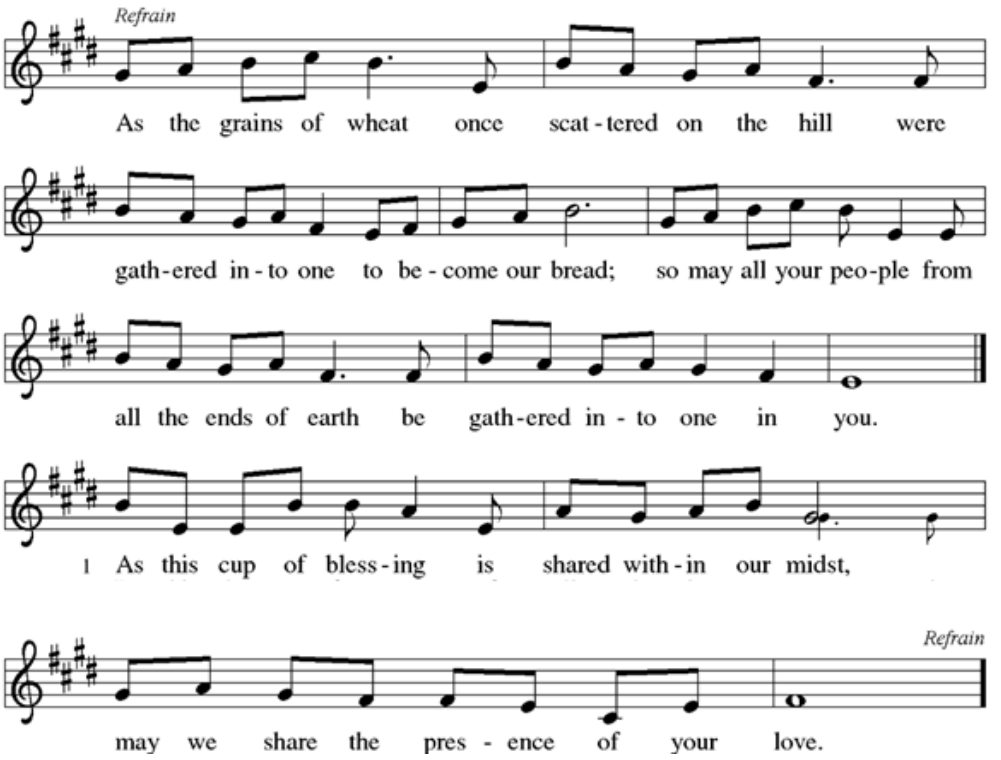
Scan to give via Venmo

Offering can be given by putting it in the offering plate when it is passed, online directly via the QR codes for Tithely or Venmo, or by requesting your bank to send a check to the church. Find more details on our website.
Thank you for your generous gifts!

Scan to give via Tithely

Congregation stands

OFFERTORY SONG



OFFERTORY PRAYER

A. Let us pray… Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**.

DIALOGUE & PREFACE OF THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Lift up your hearts.

C. We lift them to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so with all the choirs of angels, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn: *(Sing 2x—English 1st time; Spanish 2nd time)*





Text: Argentine traditional
Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, Argentine traditional

Congregation sits or kneels

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P. Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: surrounded by evil and bordered by death we appeal to you, our Sovereign, our Wisdom, and our Judge.

We praise you for Christ, who proclaimed your reign of peace and promised an end to injustice and harm.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, the sacrifice of his life and death and the victory of his resurrection, we await with all the saints his loving redemption of our suffering world.

Send your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine and on all who share in the body and blood of your Son: teach us your mercy and justice, and make all things new in Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty God, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen!**

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.

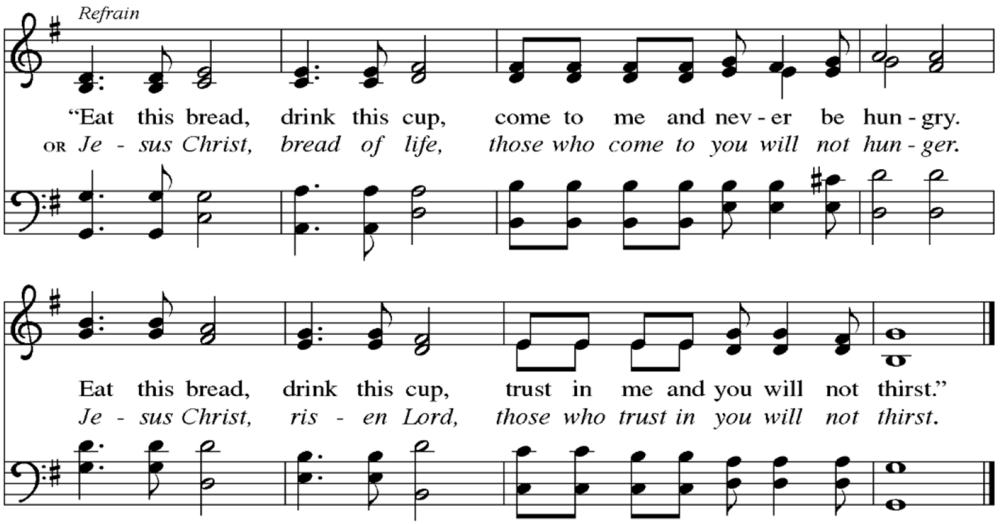
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Believing in the real presence of Christ, we practice Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcome to Communion this morning. Please come forward, guided by the Ushers, to receive the bread and wine. Children are invited to the table for a blessing.

Gluten free and traditional wafers are available, please note this to Pastor Peggy when you come up. The bread is dairy and egg free. Grape juice is available in the second communion plate. As you return to your seat via the side aisles you can place your empty cup in the baskets on either side.

P. In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

COMMUNION SONG



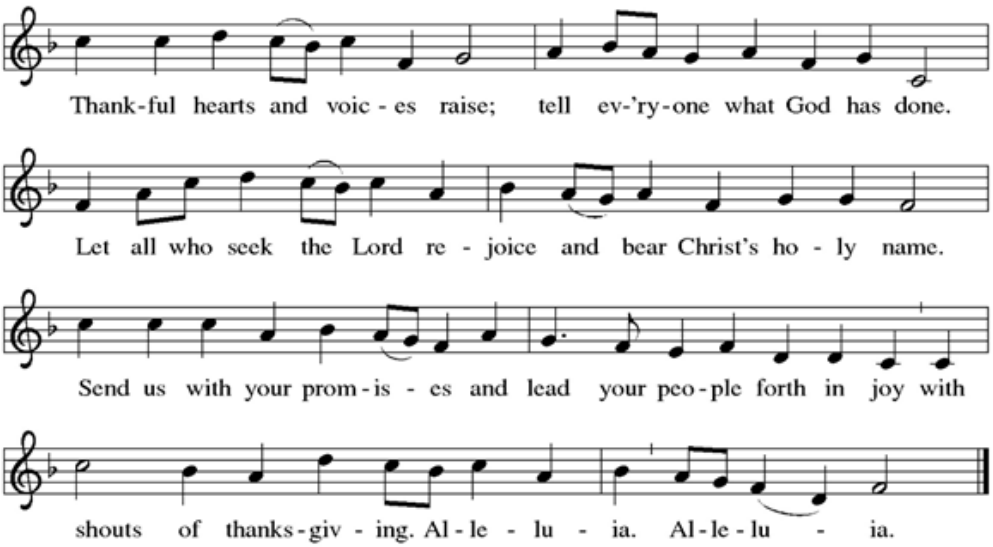
DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

After all have received Communion the congregation stands.

TABLE BLESSING

P. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

SONG AFTER COMMUNION



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A. Let us pray... Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

P. The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always. **Amen**.

SENDING HYMN Blessed Assurance ELW 638

DISMISSAL

A. Go in peace. Encourage one another.
C. Thanks be to God.

Announcements for November 8, 2026

Welcome *to Holy Counselor Lutheran Church. May you experience the joy of God's presence in our worship!*

If today is your ***first time*** *worshiping at Holy Counselor, please be sure to fill out the "Guest Book" on the table in the narthex and* ***take a welcome bag****. Please ask our ushers any questions you may have regarding worship this morning.* ***Large print bulletins*** *are available.*

The ***Pray-ground*** *is a special place to help* ***support kids and families*** *in worshiping. We love the sound of kids in worship! God made kids wiggly and curious, and we celebrate that here.* ***Tips:*** *explain, participate, and move around together. Need to leave? No problem, but please come back!*

Worship is live streamed *to our church Facebook page, but the camera is pointed away during Communion and is not on the children when they come forward during A Time for the Child in Us All.* ***Anyone on the altar is on camera.***

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Altar flowers are in loving memory of Ron Vince, from the Vince Family

Thank you Vince Family, for this morning's refreshments!!

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Volunteers for Today's Worship

Lay Asst.	Debbie Lennon
Ushers	Toby Sherman
Comm. Asst.	*Volunteer needed*
Tech	Fred Schoenagel
Tellers	*Volunteer needed*
Refreshments	Vince Family

Volunteers Scheduled for Next Sunday

Lay Asst.	Nancy Knecht
Tech	Michelle Brown

******* Join us for refreshments after worship*******

THIS WEEK AT HOLY COUNSELOR

Sunday, November 8: Sunday School, 8:45-9:15am
Generosity Sunday w/Communion, 9:30am
Choir Rehearsal following worship
Wednesday, November 11: Adult Ed, Zoom, 10:00am
Saturday, November 14: Sisters in Prayer, Zoom, 8:30am
Sunday, November 15: Sunday School, 8:45-9:15am
Worship w/Communion & Baptisms, 9:30am
Choir Rehearsal following worship

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TODAY is Generosity Sunday, each friend and member of HCLC is invited to **submit a blue intent card** as we pray over our generous gifts for the coming year. **We ask you to do two things:**

- **First,** to prayerfully discern either **making your first intent** to HCLC, **or** if you've done so in the past, to **increase your giving** by 1 or 2% of your household income.
- **Second,** consider **making your gifts using Tithely or Venmo** to help the church with sustained giving. We can help you set this up–just let the church office know!

Every gift makes a difference in the life of the church and our ministry together! **Because of God's Love…joy abounds and community thrives!**

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HCLC Lunch Bunch: Our next lunch date is **THIS Tuesday, November 10th at 12:30pm.** We are meeting at the Mountain House Tavern and Grill at Kittatinny Lake. Please RSVP to Debbie Lennon at 973-903-4217 by November 8th.

Pie Sales: Order forms are available for our annual Thanksgiving Pie Sale! **Order your pies by NEXT Sunday, November 15th.** Apple, Pumpkin, Coconut Custard, and Chocolate Cream are available! $20 each or 3 for $50! **Order forms** can be **placed** in the offering plate or turned into the church office. **Pick up** is Sunday, November 22nd following worship. If you'd like to **help make the pies** on Saturday, November 21st, please contact Francine Vince.

Blessing of the Skis & Knees: **On Sunday, November 22nd** during worship we will have a Blessing of the Skis and Knees to kick off the winter ski season. **Invite your friends, bring your skis, boots, or helmets** and receive this unique blessing.

Advent Evening Study: An Advent Study will be offered Wednesdays from 7-8pm on Zoom **if we have enough interest.** Please contact Pam Kucks or Pastor Peggy if you are interested.

College Student Addresses: Do you have a student in college? If so, **email** Pam Kucks (pkucks@gmail.com) their name & address **ASAP** for college care packages! They count even if they live at home and commute. Packages will be mailed out the end of November.

Hanging of the Greens: Our annual Hanging of the Greens will be on **Saturday, November 28th from 9-11am.** Come join in the fun, decorating the church for Advent and Christmas. **Snacks will be provided.** All are welcome, many hands make light work!

Poinsettia Orders: Order forms are available for our annual poinsettia sale which will help beautify the sanctuary for our Christmas Eve Worship. Following worship you get to take them home. Note "poinsettias" with your payment via check, cash, or Venmo. **Order forms** can be **placed** in the offering plate or turned into the church office. The **deadline** for ordering is **Sunday, November 29th.**

Wine & Cheese Fundraiser—Save the Date: Come enjoy **'Cheeses for Jesus! Wine Not?'** for a fun pre-dinner tasting on **Saturday, December 5th from 2-4pm**. Wine will be paired with cheeses and chocolates. Tickets are **$25 per person**. We encourage **signing up in advance** at the silent auction table, so we have enough wine for everyone!

Turkey Trot: You are invited to **participate in the 5K, which begins at 8am.** Church members are free, advance **registration is required**. Speak to Denise Urbaniak for more details or to get signed up.

New Member Sunday: We will be welcoming new members during worship **Sunday, December 6th**! If you are interested in being a member connect with Pastor Peggy!

Raise Right Holiday Earnings Challenge: Make the season of giving more rewarding! Complete the Holiday Earning Challenge by December 25th to get a $10 eGift card and enter to win one of five $500 grand prizes. **Participants need to register** by adding their email address in the app. You can ask John Heeren for assistance.

RaiseRight Gift Cards for Shopping/Gifts/Holidays: As you are preparing gifts for the upcoming holidays, we want to remind you of our ongoing program RaiseRight! You can **purchase gift cards** to be sent to others **as gifts or** you can get gifts cards **for the places you are buying from** during this season. As well as for anytime you shop all year long!

Download the RaiseRight app & link to the church with **enrollment code:** 53EB2E841L3275 – our RaiseRight ID number. Speak with John Heeren for more information.

Food Pantry: Food items to help restock: 4-pack toilet paper, canned tuna, canned chili, canned corn, canned soup, canned green beans, canned fruit, canned pasta, boxed potatoes, tuna helper, pasta sauce, brownie mix, jelly, children's juice boxes or pouches, kid's snacks, toothpaste, body wash. Thank you!

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Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning



Text: African American spiritual
Music: KEEP YOUR LAMPS, African American spiritual

Holy Counselor
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Contact Information
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www.hc-lutheranchurch.org

The Reverend Peggy Ludlow: pastorpeggy@hc-lutheranchurch.org
Director of Music: June Tarantino: music@hc-lutheranchurch.org
Office Administrator: Cathy Nemecek: office@hc-lutheranchurch.org
Bookkeeper: Wynn White: accounts@hc-lutheranchurch.org

MISSION STATEMENT
As Children of God, we are called to share and serve Christ's love and bring God's word to all.

CHURCH COUNCIL
Pastor Rev. Peggy Ludlow
President Nancy Knecht
Vice President Frank Urbaniak
Treasurer Claire Speroni
Recording Secretary Dawn McCormick
Financial Secretary John Heeren
Outreach Coordinator Francine Vince
Nurture Coordinator Fred Schoenagel
Administration Coordinator Diane Rossi

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
Kristina Heeren
Pam Kucks
Matt Moller
Aileen Donovan

Land Acknowledgement*: Holy Counselor is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Munsee people, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.*

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
RECONCILING IN CHRIST