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Currents

APRIL 2015



HOLY WEEK / EASTER SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

Maundy Thursday Worship Service—6:00 P.M.

You and your entire family are invited to join us on Thursday, April 2, for a soup dinner and communion service. On this night we remember and celebrate the final supper Jesus shared with his disciples. The meal of soup and bread will be served family style and we will have a time of worship including communion. We will serve each other communion at the tables – it is a unique experience to serve each other communion and we invite all to participate in this evening!

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

Noon—"Crosswalk" *Meet at Bandshell*

1:00 P.M.—Good Friday Worship

A More "family friendly" way to observe Good Friday. We will start at noon at the Bandshell in Halfway Creek Park in Holmen and walk through the community, pausing at places for song, prayer and scripture. We will end up at Holmen Lutheran with an indoor worship focused on the seven last words of Christ. The worship service begins at 1:00 P.M.

7:00 P.M.—Good Friday Tenebrae Service @ Halfway Creek

Tenebrae means darkness or shadows. At the final word, the church will be immersed in total darkness. The focus on rising darkness reminds us of the suffering and forsakenness of our Lord in payment of the penalty for our sins.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5

7:00 A.M.—Sunrise Service in Whispering Pines *Weather Permitting*

9:00 A.M.—Festive Worship Service in the Sanctuary

10:30 A.M.—Festive Worship Service in the Sanctuary

Our youth will serve Easter breakfast from 7:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. The menu is egg bake, muffins, fruit bread, fruit, milk, coffee and juice. Invite your friends and relatives!



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**HALFWAY CREEK
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
 W6016 County Road W
 Holmen, WI 54636
 Phone 608-526-3701
 Pastor Jean Pagliaro
 Worship at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
 on Sundays
 www.halfwaycreek.org

Return Service Requested

OFFICE HOURS

The office will be open Monday 8-4, Wednesday 8-3 and Friday 11-4. If you need to reach Anna Mally you may leave a message on the answering machine or e-mail her at assistant@halfwaycreek.org.

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NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK

APRIL SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

April 5: EASTER SUNDAY

* NO SUNDAY SCHOOL—children sing at 10:30 worship *

May 3: 9:15 a.m. Sunday School

May 10: Last day of Sunday School

April 13: 9:15 a.m. Sunday School

April 20: 9:15 a.m. Sunday School

April 26: 9:15 a.m. Sunday School. The kids will NOT be singing at 10:30 a.m. service

Look for more information about Vacation Bible School coming soon!

Happy Spring!

HCLC Sunday school Team

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN SING AT EASTER—10:30

Although there will be no Sunday School Children will be singing at School on Easter Sunday, Sunday 10:30 worship that day. Sunday School will resume on April 13th.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS—APRIL 12

On April 12 at 11:30 a.m., Pastor Jean will be leading a First Communion class for anyone interested. If you are interested in receiving your First Communion please call the church office at 608-526-3701 to sign up for this class.



CONFIRMATION—MAY 3

Confirmands will be affirming their baptism in the Rite of Confirmation on Sunday, May 3 at the 10:30 a.m. worship. Support our young people on this milestone of their faith journey!

The Confirmands this year are: Ben Mally, Jack Bringe and Jesse Fiers.

HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATE RECOGNITION—MAY 10

On May 10, at both services, our high school and college graduates will be honored. Please contact the church office (608-526-3701) by May 4 if you are graduating this spring.

HEALING SERVICE—APRIL 19—BOTH SERVICES

We will offer prayers of healing at both 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship on April 19. You may ask for prayers of healing for yourself or for loved ones.



NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Coulee Region Gospel Choir Spring Performances

The Coulee Region Gospel Choir under the direction of Steve Koch, accompanied by Sylvia Groleau, Julie Bodendein, Paul Leithold and Terry Grosskopf, presents “For the Glory of Christ” at the following area churches:

FOR THE GLORY OF CHRIST

April 12, 3:00 p.m. Holmen Lutheran Church, 228 Morris St. Holmen

April 19, 3:00 p.m. Shepherd of the Hills, 1215 Redwood St. Onalaska

The concerts are free and all are welcome!

UFF DA! Club Event

On April 15th there will be a tour at 11 AM of *Common Ground*, the Lutheran campus ministry building at UWL. The new director, Pastor Ben Morris, will show us the facilities and over a lunch of soup, will share with us its operation and vision.

Healing Through Grief Group

Mayo Clinic Health System—Franciscan Healthcare in La Crosse will be offering Healing Through Grief Group sessions starting at the end of April. Sessions include an educational topic and a time to share with others also experiencing grief. Free confidential, one-on-one support is also available from a Franciscan Healthcare chaplain with specialized training in grief. Registration is not required, attend any or all sessions at 700 West Avenue South Hospital Building—Lang Conference Room. For further information you may call (608)-785-0940 ext. 22218. Sessions take place alternating Mondays, April—August 2015 from 5:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m.

April 20—The Grieving Process: What’s Happening to Me?

Annual Community Health Fair

Viterbo University will be hosting its Annual Community Health Fair on Tuesday April 14, 2015 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Amie L. Mathy Center on Viterbo’s campus.

The Health Fair will offer valuable information on health conditions, general wellness and safety issues. There will be a wide variety of community health and wellness resources available all in one spot—health screenings, demonstrations, healthy snacks and entertainment will be offered.

The event is free and all are welcome!

**NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.
TREASURER'S REPORT**

Profit & Loss statement for January 1—March 17, 2015

General Fund Income: \$ 27,696.41
 General Fund Expenses: \$ 32,499.87
 General Fund Net Income: \$ - 4,803.46

If you would like more details on the financial statement please contact Bob Bandoli at robertbandoli@hotmail.com

Just a few short weeks ago the stained glass window was installed in the new addition!



**NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.
BUILDING DEDICATION-MAY 31**

We are thrilled to have our building dedication date set for May 31st! We will have one service at 10:30 that morning followed by a reception. We are looking for people to be on a planning team for this event, so please contact Pastor Jean if you're interested in helping. Thank you!

BUILDING DEDICATION CHOIR

The Halfway Creek Mixed Choir and Women's Choir will be joining forces for the Building Dedication on Sunday, May 31st at the 10:30 service. The combined choirs will be singing two pieces and women's choir will be singing one piece alone. All interested singers are invited to join either one or both groups for this special celebration in the life of the congregation. Please email Lynn Wegner at lwegner2005@yahoo.com or call her at 526-3110.

In order to encourage participation, Sunday morning rehearsal time will be shared by both groups. Halfway Creek Mixed Choir will offer an additional rehearsal opportunity for those singers who can't attend Sunday morning rehearsals. Rehearsals will begin after Easter Sunday. The April rehearsal schedule is as follows:

- Wednesday, April 8 7 pm--Halfway Creek Mixed Choir (men and women)
- Sunday, April 12 9 am--Women's Choir
9:30 am--Halfway Creek Mixed Choir (women's sectional only)
- Wednesday, April 15 7 pm--Halfway Creek Mixed Choir (men and women)
- Sunday, April 19 9 am--Women's Choir
9:30 am--Halfway Creek Mixed Choir (women's sectional only)
- Wednesday, April 22 7 pm-- Halfway Creek Mixed Choir (men and women)
- Sunday, April 26 9 am--Women's Choir
9:30 am--Halfway Creek Mixed Choir (women's sectional only)
- Wednesday, April 29 7 pm--Halfway Creek Mixed Choir (men and women)

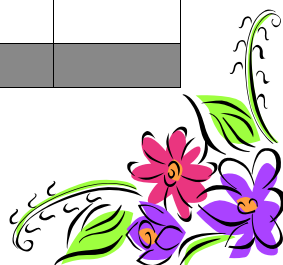
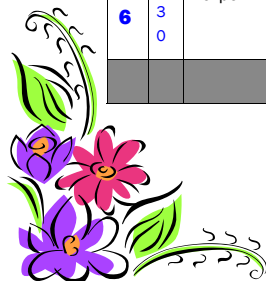


Left: 5th Grade Sunday School Students are having a fun time making Easter trees.

**NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.
SERVING OTHERS IN OUR CONGREGATION**

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R**

| | | ACOLYTE | SEXTON | ALTAR GUILD | OFFERING COUNTERS | LECTOR | COMMUNION ASSIST. | USHERS |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| A P R 5 | 9 0 0 | Olivia Temp | Mike Martin | Carrie Payne Nicole Stumlin | Rhonda Britton Sonja Nelson | Pat Martin | Mike Martin | Greg & Chantel Temp |
| | 1 0 3 0 | Zach Mueller | Morgan Jostad | | | John Daily | Ella Gander | Andy & Tina Mueller |
| A P R 12 | 8 0 0 | Chance Brandau | Stan Schwier | Karla Johnson Hannah Scholze | Bette Pedretti Susan Jostad | Brian Mueller | Thelma Severson | Chad & Patti Brandau |
| | 1 0 3 0 | Chesney Plomedahl | Matt Pagliaro | | | Susie Johnson | Jacob Wegner | Jesse & Nicole Plomedahl |
| A P R 19 | 8 0 0 | Kohl Linberg | Archie Achterkirch | Diane Jostad Nancy Holley | Jessie Harper Alana Larson | Amy Noel | Amy Noel | Luke & Jesse Oines |
| | 1 0 3 0 | Aiden Noth | Josh Johnson | | | Gunnar Gates | Chesney Plomedahl | Joe & Melissa Noth |
| A P R 26 | 8 0 0 | Ella Gander | Dave Bringe | Barb Hale Bette Pedretti | Joe Noth Stephanie Lubinsky | Gabby Hansen | Ruth Jostad | Trent & Bridget Gander |
| | 1 0 3 0 | Masen Harper | Russ Bringe | | | Lee Anderson | Zach Johnson | Matt & Jessie Harper |



**NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.
WELCA NEWS**



SPRING GATHERING—APRIL 18

This year's Spring Gathering will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2015 at Trinity Lutheran in Sparta! Our guest speaker will be Church wide Rep - Jody Smiley! All women are welcome.

Please plan to attend as it will be a day of worship, business meeting, fellowship and enrichment. Please bring bars of soap along to the Spring Convention. The bars of soap will be sent to LWR and/or distributed to local food pantries/charities.

Please collect and bring bottle caps along to the Spring Convention - water bottle caps, pop bottle caps, milk bottle caps, etc. The bottle caps will be traded in for free haircut certificates that will be given to the Women's Clothes Closet.

LWR School Kit Backpacks will be available to purchase for \$1.25 each at the Spring Convention from our West Conference Coordinator Connie Blunck.

It will be held at Trinity Lutheran in Sparta (612 North Water Street) on Saturday, April 18, 2015, with sign-in and Coffee Fellowship starting at 8:00 a.m. and worship starting at 9:00 a.m.

The convention should be done by no later than 3:30 p.m. Please note the new addition on the registration form, asking if Childcare is needed and if so for how many and the ages. Trinity has a really nice playroom area and is willing to have it staffed if needed for the day.

If you are interested in attending this conference or fell called to serve on the synod board for the women please talk to Ruth Scholze, 526-3064.

Thanks to a tremendous amount of preliminary sewing by Penny Achterkirch, the quilters were able to cut, sew & tie about 50 quilts this year. These quilts will be distributed to the Salvation Army, The Warming Center & Lutheran World Relief.

Consider joining us next year! We not only cut, sew & tie...we also laugh a lot!



NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

FAITH & FITNESS NEWS

Faith and Fitness Facebook Page

We've created a Facebook page to share all the great activities you can participate in. We'll share pictures of members living an active lifestyle, post upcoming events, and hopefully inspire you to try something new. Find us at: <https://www.facebook.com/FaithandFitnessatHalfwayCreekLutheran>

Financial Fitness Series

We have a Financial Fitness Series planned. On April 19, Alana Havenstrite will be giving the sermon at both services. She is a local woman who lost her husband when he was stung by a bee on a family vacation. Her story will "awaken a reality that hits most in a painful place." Her message will deliver the importance of always being financially prepared for unexpected events. The following week, Altra Federal Credit Union will be offering a financial preparedness presentation from 9:15-10:00. Their energetic financial literacy coordinator, Tony Beyer, will share tips on budgeting, saving, life insurance, and topics that should be discussed so you're prepared for an unexpected life change.

Local Events

The weather is great for being outside and our area has a number of outdoor activities planned. We've added a number of these events to our fitness calendar. Many of these events are for local 5K run/walks so the April and May calendars also include a couch to 5K plan. This is just one plan of many options for those of you who would like to start running. Running improves your health, reduces stress and depression, and helps you lose weight. However, if running isn't your thing still try to find other ways to be active everyday. Some studies say walking can be just as beneficial as running. The article, "The Longevity Experiment" in the National Geographic magazine said, "You get 90 or 95 percent of the benefit of running from walking briskly." Many of these local events have running as well as walking options. They are a great way to be active and support a good cause. If you know of any events that should be added to future calendars, please e-mail Kristi Johnson at kristijohnson@yahoo.com or message us on Facebook.



In late February the Faith & Fitness Team held the first ever Halfway Creek Bag Tournament! There was a great turn out for the event!



NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1 | 12 | 20 | 24 |
| Nicole Kubal | Kennedy Strangstalien | Kimberly Lavold | Roy Ackermann |
| 3 | 14 | 21 | 26 |
| Gregory Temp | Alexa Lautenschlager | Kathleen Hagel | Dawn Bandoli |
| 4 | 15 | Chantel Temp | 27 |
| Rachael Hauser | Kristi Johnson | 22 | Rebecca Hauser |
| Trinity Horstman | 16 | Gabriel Hansen | Joyce Romskog |
| 5 | Matthew Betsinger | Allison Oines | 28 |
| Jeremy Jessesky | Erica Daily | Ethan Oines | Katie Loper |
| 6 | 18 | 23 | Cartyr Stumlin |
| Rhonda Britton | Andrea Baxter | Preston Ammerman | 29 |
| Doug Gordon | 19 | Savannah Britton | Audrey Bringe |
| Zach Johnson | Jennifer Kruckow | Philip Johnson | Lars Oines |
| Cassie Tremain | Wyatt Oines | Joanne Mihm | 30 |
| | | Randy Tuquero | Barbara Rudy |



NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

VISION BOARD MINUTES—MARCH 19, 2015

Meeting was called to order at 6:37 pm by President David Gates.

Pastor led us in a devotion using the book, "Eyes Remade for Wonder" by Lawrence Kushner. She read the essay, "Messenger of the Most High" and we reflected on it.

A recommendation via email from Lynn Wegner and John Daily from the Second Century Committee was presented to the Vision Board to approve work to install sound equipment for the narthex and fellowship hall in the building addition. The reason for this approval before the March 19th Vision Board meeting was so the sound equipment could be installed before Easter. Brian Mueller made a motion to approve that work move forward. Susan Chase seconded. Motion was approved via email vote on February 27. The contract to be signed will be provided when received from Sims Audio.

A recommendation via email from Pastor Jean from the Second Century Committee was presented to the Vision Board to approve a contract for Advanced Seamless to install gutters on the new addition for \$2404.00, and a contract for Blinds by Design to install window treatments in the new addition for \$4,607.00. It was presented before the March 19 Vision Board meeting so that work can begin as soon as possible. Brian Mueller made a motion to approve the contracts. Joanne Nichols seconded. Motion was approved via email vote on March 6.

The Property Team presented an estimate to have new gutters and downspouts installed on the existing building at the same time gutters are installed on the building addition. The estimate to do that is \$2,368.00. Marna Holley made a motion to approve using \$1,882.60 from the Property Team budget and \$485.40 from Undesignated Memorials. Joanne Nichols seconded. Motion approved.

The IT Committee recommended approval of a contract with Access PTS for WiFi and network switch equipment for \$2,333.11. Marna Holley made a motion to approve. Joanne Nichols seconded. Motion approved.

The IT Committee recommended bundling phone and internet services with Charter Communications for \$175.00 per month. Brian Mueller made a motion to approve. Marna Holley seconded. Motion was approved.

The Vision Board questioned what team would be responsible for the maintenance of the audio equipment installed by Sims Audio and Video. We will ask Aaron Balow from the IT committee and Lynn Wegner from Music and Liturgy for guidance.

Carolyn Hackett presented the following payment recommendations from the Second Century Committee for the building project: Change Order #19 for \$876.25, Change order #20 for \$467.25, and Change Order #21. Marna Holley made a motion to approve. Susan Chase seconded. Motion was approved.

Owner-direct purchases and assorted invoices (County Materials \$8162.35, First Supply 4652.93, Temperature Systems Inc \$5310.00, Vyron Corp \$1200.00, Wisconsin Building Supply \$18,079.36, Wisconsin Building Supply \$13,076.00, Sherwin Williams \$100.19, Menards \$207.65, Home Depot \$10.00, GexPro \$4495.00, Sims Sound and Video \$4,903.04, Carolyn Hackett-Electricity Expense Reimbursement \$250.00) were presented for payment. Bob Bandoli made a motion to approve, Susan Chase seconded. Motion was approved.

Pay Application for Olympic Builders for \$77,072.20. Bob Bandoli made a motion to approve. Marna Holley seconded. Motion was approved.

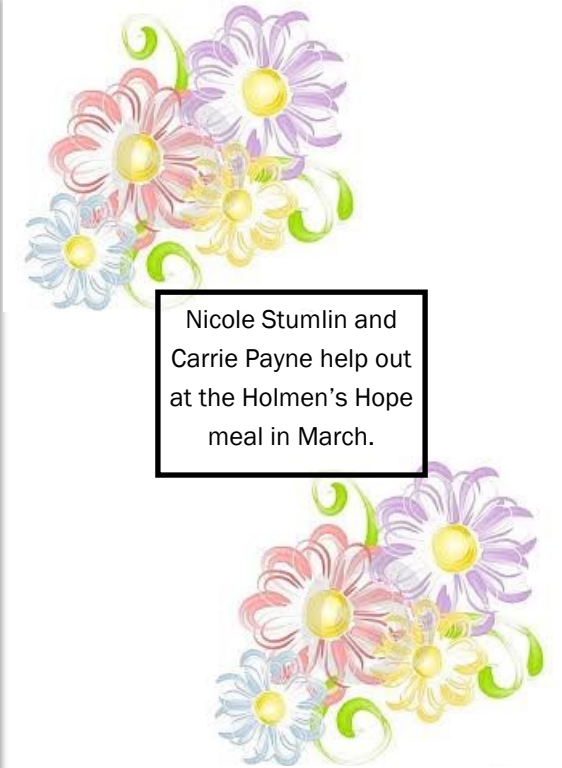
The Second Century Committee recommended accepting the bid from Tim Markgren to install retaining walls. The estimate was for \$10,000, which was \$1,000 under the limit set by the Second Century Committee. Susan Chase made a motion to approve. Brian Mueller seconded. Motion was approved.

The Second Century Committee recommended a contract with Custom Fan and Machine for skirt board and coat rack, not to exceed \$680.00. Brian Mueller made a motion to approve. Marna Holley seconded. Motion was approved.

NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.



Nicole Stumlin and Carrie Payne help out at the Holmen's Hope meal in March.



E-MAIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Every week Pastor Jean sends out receiving these and you would e-mail announcements to the like to, please e-mail her at pastor@halfwaycreek.org to get congregation. If you are not on the e-mail distribution list.

HOSPITAL VISITS

If you or someone you know is in the hospital, please let the church office know so Pastor Jean can visit them. HIPAA prevents us from being able to call the hospitals to find out if one of our members is there.

HOME VISITS

If you or someone you know church in awhile and would like a visit from Pastor Jean, please let the church office know. Pastor Jean loves to visit members.

NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

PARISH NURSES

Living A Life of Gratitude

Gratitude is the intentional appreciation of what and who you have in your life. Feeling appreciation or being thankful (gratitude) actually has been proven by research to have many health benefits.

What are some of the benefits of practicing gratitude?

- A decrease in depression. This occurs by practicing optimistic thinking and reframing events or situations in positive ways.
- Can be a brain booster. May help strengthen your memory.
- Helps improve your sleep.
- Helps you feel peaceful and helps reduce anxiety.
- Great for your heart. Improves overall cardiac health, indirectly through improving mood, paying attention to positive health behaviors-such as nutrition and exercise. It can also directly affect your heart through reduction in inflammation, which plays a role in many chronic illnesses.

How can you cultivate an attitude of gratitude?

- Take time to reflect on your day—this can help you intentionally think about the positive parts of your day.
- Prayer-prayers or meditations of gratitude are powerful. This can heighten your sense of well-being.
- Utilize your senses—your senses connect you to your world and wonders around you. Using your senses can trigger many feelings of gratitude.
- Visual reminders—use reminders such as notes, pictures, quotes to remember to practice gratitude.
- Write—whether in a journal about daily events or things that you are grateful for or by writing a letter, expressing feelings of gratitude, or kindness that has been shown to you (even if you don't send the letter.)
- Think about someone or something you are grateful for—make a conscious decision to spend some time during or at the end of your day to think about a person or event that has brought you love, kindness, joy or compassion.
- Go back to basics— Don't underestimate the simple things like a sunrise, a soft rain, a kind word, the smell of fresh baked apple pie....the list is endless.

Like all changes in our lives, practicing a life of gratitude takes some time. By consciously taking the time to think about the things in our day-to-day lives that brings us peacefulness, happiness and thankfulness can, over time, help to shift our attitude. You may feel more contented and fulfilled. You may feel more energetic from a spiritual, emotional and physical perspective. You may be happy to be alive!



NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

VISION BOARD MINUTES—MARCH 19, 2015 CONTINUED

On behalf of the Outreach Team, Carolyn Hackett presented an update on the new program Sharing Food With All. Outreach Team has developed an informational brochure and is coordinating with Evangelism and Discipleship Team to spread the word about the program and Scrip opportunity. The program will launch on April 12, 2015, with a competition between the Sunday School/Youth and the Congregation to collect donations. The competition will end on May 10th. The community launch with Holmen Lutheran Church and Journey Lutheran Church is planned for June 7th. The program will coordinate through Halfway Creek Lutheran Church. The program will be re-evaluated in October.

The secretary's report was presented. Bob Bandoli made a motion to approve the minutes from the February meeting. Joanne Nichols seconded. Motion was approved.

Bob Bandoli presented the Finance Team report. Building Fund 261.51 is now receiving dedicated building funds to build up balance to begin paying back building project loan.

The Pastor presented her report. Anna Mally received her 90 Day review on March 16, and will receive the \$0.50 raise promised in her contract. Pastor met with Rich Pedretti concerning his duties with the building addition. They came up with a plan to convert Rich to hourly rate, at \$15/hr, starting June 1st and running to February 1st, 2016, or whenever a contract is put in place. This will allow time to evaluate his additional responsibilities. Brian Mueller made a motion to accept that arrangement. Marna Holley seconded. Motion was approved.

With the building addition, custodial fees for special events will increase. The fee for a wedding or funeral will be \$150.00. The fee for an event that uses only the basement or only the fellowship hall will be \$75.00. The fee for an event that utilizes both will be \$150.00.

Chad Brandau of C & C Lawn Mowing, LLC submitted his bid to mow and trim the grounds. Approval of his bid of \$12.50/hr is pending him supplying a certificate of insurance coverage.

Average attendance so far this year is 144 per Sunday.

The Evangelism and Discipleship Team is excited to get started on restructuring the new member process and materials. Susan Chase and Marna Holley will be working with the team alongside Pastor Jean.

Dave Gates spoke with Amy Noel about our Synod Mission commitment. She is willing to make a presentation about what Synod Missions is all about and why we should support it. Dave will coordinate with Amy on dates. The Vision Board is inviting Amy to the next meeting to present her ideas to us.

Bob Bandoli and Rhonda Britton will put together an announcement concerning the importance of designating our offerings.

Marna presented a several ideas for the new church logo. The Vision Board sent four main ideas back with her to work with for the next meeting. We would like to see large scale, small scale, color, black and white, vertical, and horizontal examples of each.

Brian Mueller inquired if there were any members who have grant writing or grant research experience in order to possibly start a Grants Team. Tabled.

Brian Mueller requested permission to set up an Accessibility Committee to start a conversation about how the church can be made more accessible to members who have physical, hearing, vision, and cognitive challenges.

Bob Bandoli made a motion to adjourn. Brian Mueller seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:18pm.

