

Halfway Creek LUTHERAN CHURCH

CURRENTS

DECEMBER 2015

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DEC. 13—10:30 A.M.

We will be having two worship services on December 13, at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. **The Christmas Program will be at the 10:30 a.m. service only.** We hope you can join us as we

share the story of Jesus' birth with song and scripture. Please see page 2 of this newsletter for more information on rehearsals.



CARING TREE PROGRAM

The Caring Tree is setup in the Narthex with "gift tags" on it. Tags have age, gender and item suggestion for each child. There are 2 tags for each child, one for clothing item and one for fun item. Gifts should be \$25

or less; you can take one or more tags. **RECORD YOUR NAME & PHONE NO.** next to the child's tag number on the clipboard. Gifts should be wrapped with the tag on them and returned to church between Dec 5-13.

Thanks for supporting this outreach ministry for children in our community. Call/email Bette Pedretti with questions: 526-3241 or bettepedretti@yahoo.com

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE—DEC. 20

We will have a special service on December 20 at 10:30 worship called

"Blue Christmas". Please see p. 13 of this

newsletter for more information.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Are you having company for Christmas? Be sure to bring them with you to worship. Three worship services are offered.

message, service of light, special music.

Christmas Eve service 2:00 p.m.—family friendly, children's

Christmas Eve service 4:00 p.m.—family friendly, children's message, service of light, special music.

Christmas Eve service 9:00 p.m.— service of light

NO Christmas Day service

Please see page 3 for more details.



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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 8-4 and Thursday 8-12. 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

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Important Sunday School dates:

- December 6 Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Christmas Program rehearsal
- December 12 9:00 a.m. Christmas Program dress rehearsal
*Also on Saturday the 12th during rehearsal the children will have a chance to shop for Christmas gifts for family and friends at our Santa's Workshop. They will pick out gifts (ranging from 25 cents to no more than \$2).
- December 13 Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Christmas Program at 10:30 am service
- December 27 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
- January 3 Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Prayers, Pajamas, Pancakes and Pals Party



SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM REHEARSALS

We will be rehearsing on Saturday, December 12th from 9am-11pm. Following practice the Youth Group will have a Christmas shopping opportunity

for our kids!! We ask that families please make every effort to attend the Saturday rehearsal. There will be no Sunday School on December 27th. We will resume

Sunday School on January 3rd with our annual Prayers, Pajamas, Pancakes, & Pals Party.

ITEMS WANTED FOR THE CHRISTMAS STORE

The Youth Group is looking for donations of gently used household items for the "Christmas Store" they will be setting up for the Sunday School children on December 12. The children will shop for inexpensive Christmas gifts for their family and friends. Some suggested donations are:

jewelry (both men and women's), tool kits, belts, purses, scarves, gloves, ties, knickknacks, coffee mugs, toys, hair accessories. Please bring your donations to church and put them in the box labeled "Christmas Store".



TREASURER'S REPORT

Year to date budget as of October 12, 2015

General Fund Income:	\$ 107,902.83
General Fund Expenses:	\$ 115,268.51
General Fund Net Loss:	- \$ 8,890.83



TREASURER

To bring forward financial focus of the 2015 year end general fund giving budget of \$135,000, a fiscal awareness display will be located outside of the Sanctuary to December 31. Please continue to grow in generosity by sending or bringing your offerings regularly throughout the year, even when you're absent our ministry continues. If you have any questions contact: Robert Bandoli



Left: Rayna and Rylan Hendrickson sold pumpkins to raise money for the ELCA Good Gifts Sunday School challenge! Our Sunday school raised money to buy animals for families in need so they have a sustainable means of living.

Rayna and Rylan raised \$35 and their grandpa matched the amount and so they raised \$70 total!

NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.



Rev. Jim Arends, Bishop
 Rev. Elizabeth Howe, Director for Evangelical Mission/Assistant to the Bishop

November 12, 2015

Rev. Jean Pagliaro & Members of
 Halfway Creek Lutheran Church
 W6016 Cty Rd W
 Holmen WI 54636

Dear Pastor Pagliaro and Members of Halfway Creek Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for your recent restricted giving donation in the amount of \$533.50 designated for ELCA World Hunger. We are happy to forward your gift on to this vital ministry of the ELCA. ELCA World Hunger is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need, supporting and developing “sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.” Many lives will be touched and enriched. May you continue to live as witnesses to the love of Christ in the world.

In Christ,

Rev. Jim Arends, Bishop

JAA/mkt

NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 6th—10:30 a.m.—Music Ministry Sunday

The Halfway Choir and Chime Choir have prepared special anthems for this service. We will have a Cookie Walk following the 10:30 service.

Sunday, December 13th—10:30 a.m.—Sunday School Christmas Program

The Sunday School will present their Christmas program at the 10:30 service. We will have a traditional Advent service with Holy Communion at the 8:00 a.m. service that morning.

Sunday, December 20th—10:30 a.m.—Blue Christmas Service

This Christmas service will include special prayers of healing for all who suffer from emotional, spiritual, or physical pain.

December 24th—2:00 p.m.—Christmas Eve Family Service

This family-friendly service features a children's message, special music, and candle lighting.

December 24th—4:00 p.m.—Christmas Eve Family Service

This family-friendly service features a children's message, special music, and candle lighting.



December 24th—9:00 p.m.—Christmas Eve Service of Light

This is a traditional Carol Service with special music and candle lighting.

December 27th—9:00 a.m., one service only

Please note there is no Sunday School this day.

No Christmas Day Worship

We will not be holding a Christmas Day worship service this year. The following are churches are holding Christmas Day services:

First Lutheran, 410 Main St, Onalaska at 9 am on Christmas Day

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 359 Leonard St N, West Salem at 10 am Christmas Day

NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT. PARISH NURSES—HOLIDAY FOOD SAFETY

By: Meredith Hink, MS, RDN, CD

Food safety is important 365 days out of the year; and especially when you are serving food to others. Holidays tend to be the time when families prepare and serve dishes they don't normally make on a daily basis. In addition, some people travel great distances to be with family and wish to contribute to the meal. Give your family the gift of food safety this holiday season by focusing on the basics: clean, separate, cook, chill.

Clean

It's easy for the kitchen and dining area to get messy around the holidays. Before starting food preparation, clean all work surfaces with hot, soapy water. A sanitizing solution of one tablespoon unscented bleach diluted in one gallon of water is also recommended. Remind family members to clean up spills on the floor immediately so others don't slip and fall. When preparing food that requires further cooking like raw meats, make sure to clean cutting boards, utensils, kitchen surfaces, and wash hands before preparing any other food items. Hand washing is essential during the holidays. Don't be shy about asking family and friends to wash their hands before assisting with meal preparation or service. Make sure to have a designated, dish-free sink for hand washing with plenty of hot water, soap, and paper towels available. Holidays are a great time to teach children about the importance of hand washing and to practice hand washing with them. The recommended amount of time to wash hands is 20 seconds – practice singing your favorite Christmas tune to pass the time.

Separate

Some foods, especially raw meats, fish, and poultry, need to be kept separate from ready to eat foods because they can contain bacteria that can cause foodborne illnesses. These bacteria are usually killed during the cooking process as long as the food is cooked to the recommended temperatures. To keep bacteria from thawing meat, fish, and poultry from spreading to other food, plan ahead and thaw large cuts of meat using a safe thawing method such as under refrigeration, cold running water, or in a microwave oven, but not on the counter-top. Recommendations for thawing times are available on the USDA website at www.fsis.usda.gov (search for "Countdown to the Thanksgiving Holiday"). Keep thawing meats in a separate compartment below and away from other food. Clean this compartment with hot, soapy water followed by a sanitizing bleach solution before storing any other food in it. Also, when preparing food, do not prepare ready to eat food near raw meats, fish, or poultry.

Cook

Cooking food to the correct temperature is essential to minimize the risk of getting a foodborne illness. Follow cooking instructions on product packaging or see the article "Safe Minimum Internal Temperature Chart" on the USDA website listed above. Recommended cooking temperatures vary depending on the type of meat, fish, or poultry you are preparing. Do not rely on the pop-up thermometers provided with meats like turkey and ham. Purchase a food thermometer and test the temperature yourself by sticking the thermometer in at least two spots in the thickest part of the food item. It is not recommended to cook stuffing inside of meat because this often creates an environment where the food does not cook to the recommended temperature. Instead, cook stuffing separately.

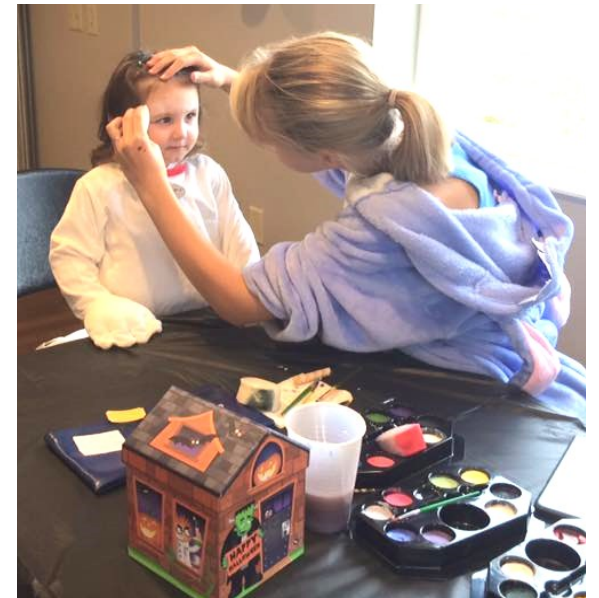
Chill

Refrigerated space can become limited during the holidays. Plan ahead by reviewing what is currently in your refrigerator and determining how much space you will need for the upcoming holiday. Review use-by dates and discard food that is close-to or has exceeded its use-by date. Keep cold food refrigerated and hot food on the stovetop or in the oven for as long as possible before the holiday meal. Do not leave food sitting out at room temperature for more than two hours. When preparing to store leftover meat like turkey and ham, cut these items into smaller pieces before putting them in the refrigerator so they cool down faster. If family wishes to bring food and they are traveling from a distance, encourage them to contribute items that do not need to be kept refrigerated. Discard leftovers after three to four days. The USDA has a new "FoodKeeper" App that can help you determine how to safely store food and when to discard it. By sticking to the food safety basics you can give your family a delicious and safe holiday celebration.

NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT. TRUNK-N-TREAT PICTURES



Trunk-N-Treat was a great success! Thanks to all our volunteers who made it a fun day!



NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

CONFIRMATION/YOUTH GROUP GIFT EXCHANGE—12/16

All youth are invited to join us at 6:00pm for our annual Christmas party and gift exchange. It will be a fun white elephant gift exchange! Bring a random gift that costs no more than a dollar or you can bring something from home. Wrap it as you would like but NO NAME on it. We will play a game to see who ends up with the gifts...who knows what you will end up with??? If you have questions please contact our youth coordinator, Steve Mally, at simyouthhclc@gmail.com

WOMEN OF THE ELCA QUILT AUCTION

The Halfway Creek Quilters have displayed 6 quilts for silent auction in the lobby. Bids begin at \$15 and have begun! Winners will be announced Sunday, December 6 after 10:30 service in the Narthex. Winners **MUST** be able to pick up their quilt in the church office if they are not present for the announcement. Thank you for supporting our ministries.



ANNUAL ADVENT LUNCHEON

All women are invited to attend the Annual Advent Luncheon on Monday, December 14, 2015 at Living Hope Parish Center. The luncheon will begin at 11:30 a.m. and a short program will follow lunch. There is no charge for the luncheon but a free will offering will be collected for the area food pantry. Please RSVP to 582-2196, 04 525-3081 by December 7 - or talk to Ruth Scholze.

Thanks to Penny, Archie, Ruth J., Diane, Leanne, Paul, Thelma and Ruth S. for serving at Living Hope's Come for Supper in November.

-- Ruth Scholze, escholze@centurytel.net

HCLC APPAREL SALE

Music ministries will be selling HCLC apparel with our new logo through Sunday, December 20th as a fundraiser for various audio visual projects. The order forms are available on the website, via email announcements, in the office, and on Sunday mornings. Please turn in orders and payment to Lynn Wegner by 12/20. You can contact Lynn at 526-3110 or lwegner2005@yahoo.com with questions.

FESTIVAL FOODS, KWIK TRIP AND KOHL'S SCRIP CARDS

You can help support the Halfway Creek Building Fund with your purchase of Festival Foods and Kwik Trip SCRIP Cards. Festival Foods donates 3% of the purchase price of their cards to us, Kwik Trip gives us 10%.

Please plan ahead and make an impact on the HCLC vision for our future!

Please look for the SCRIP Card holiday order form inserted in the newsletter so that you can

preorder cards for the Holidays! Thank you for your support.

NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

WALKING TOGETHER IN FAITH

4th Sunday of the Month - 9:15 AM – Heritage Hall (old Fellowship Hall)

He comes alongside us when we go through hard times, and before you know it, he brings us alongside someone else who is going through hard times so that we can be there for that person just as God was there for us. We have plenty of hard times that come from following the Messiah, but no more so than the good times of his healing comfort – we get a full measure of that too. -2 Corinthians 1:3-5

Purpose - To provide opportunities for anyone who is working on their own recovery and healing, or anyone who is impacted by their loved one's journey toward recovery and healing to have a safe, confidential place to share experiences and build hope through community. These are open meetings meaning that anyone can join at any time.

What to expect -

Devotion followed by a short discussion

Sharing time

Theme discussion – each time we meet we will have a theme relevant to the groups purpose

Ending prayer

All are welcome!

SWING DANCE LESSONS

6:30 PM to 7:30 PM - Thursday January 21, January 28, February 4 & February 11

Learn the basic steps of swing dancing this winter. Join instructor, Kathy Gorman, and perfect your dance steps over four Thursday evenings. Beat the dark, cold winter nights by building up a sweat with a fun work-out. Need more convincing? Here are additional benefits:

- It's an aerobic exercise that will also boost your heart rate and burn calories.
- Dancing is good for your mood. Studies show it can reduce depression and boost your self-esteem.
- Dancing is a mental workout too so it is good for your mind. Studies have shown that it can help reduce the onset of dementia and Alzheimer's.
- It's a fun skill to learn and use when you're out with friends and at weddings.



Register at the link below to reserve your spot. Cost is \$25/couple and can be paid on the first evening. Hosted by the Faith and Fitness Team.

<https://halfwaycreeklutheranswingdancelessons.eventbrite.com>

NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

**You Are Cordially Invited to
Halfway Creek Lutheran Church's**

MUSIC MINISTRY SUNDAY

Featuring special Advent and Christmas music

DATE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

Time: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. services

Place: Halfway Creek Lutheran Church

W6016 County Road W, Holmen

2½ miles east of Holmen, WI

**A COOKIE WALK WILL BE HELD FOLLOWING
THE 10:30 SERVICE**

COOKIES SOLD FOR \$6/LB

**NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.****VISION BOARD MEETING MINUTES—NOVEMBER 12, 2015**

Minutes of Halfway Creek Lutheran Church Vision Board Meeting November 12, 2015

David Gates, Marna Holley, Brian Mueller, Bob Bandoli, Susan Chase, Sydney Craig, Joanne Nichols, Shelly Vander Linden, Pastor Jean Pagliaro

David Gates called the meeting to order at 6:28 pm.

Pastor Jean led us in a devotion about "quirky" churches. How can we remain original, authentic, and out of the ordinary?

Carolyn Hackett presented the following invoices for approval from the Second Century Committee:

Sims Sound \$3710.14 for acoustical panels, Sims Sound \$16,747.79 to complete the AV system, \$160.00 to 3RT Networks for labor, \$900.95 to 3RT Networks to complete computer networking, \$16.78 to Wisconsin Builder's Supply, \$895.00 to Real Wood Products, \$619.99 for a laptop for the AV system, and \$2511.60 to Wisconsin Builders Supply for cabinets in the Youth room, which will be reimbursed by Morgan and Ruth Jostad as a do-

nation. Brian Mueller made a motion to approve. Marna Holley seconded. Motion approved.

Bob Bandoli presented the Finance Team report. Giving has increased with the start of Sunday School and the fall season. We have made another payment to synod Missions.

The Secretary's report was presented. Bob Bandoli made a motion to approve. Marna Holley seconded. Motion approved.

Pastor Jean presented the Youth Report. Trunk or Treat was a rousing success, and there were many positive comments concerning the youth who helped make the event run smoothly. There was great participation for the paintball outing. There is now a couch in the youth room.

Pastor Jean presented the Pastor's Report. The Sunday School Board will be meeting on November 22nd to recommend creating a Sunday School coordinator position. Funding for this position will be discussed. Pastor Jean will be attending mission development training (February 24-28, 2016) because this is the only training option available from the Synod to

enrich Pastors working with growing congregations. A grant writing team is coming together to develop a proposal for the Fast Growth Grant from the Synod. A Thanksgiving Eve service will be hosted by Halfway Creek Lutheran Church for the area churches, and will be followed by a pie reception.

Marna Holley handed out a summary of the Conversation and Celebration brainstorming session. We need to identify what we are going to do with this information and how we will address these needs/concerns/hopes.

We need to find volunteers to serve on the Stewardship (D.R.E.A.M.) Team - Developing Relationships to Effectively Achieve our Mission. We also have a number of available openings to serve on Vision Board for next year. Brian Mueller and Dave Gates will contact people about their willingness to serve on these.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

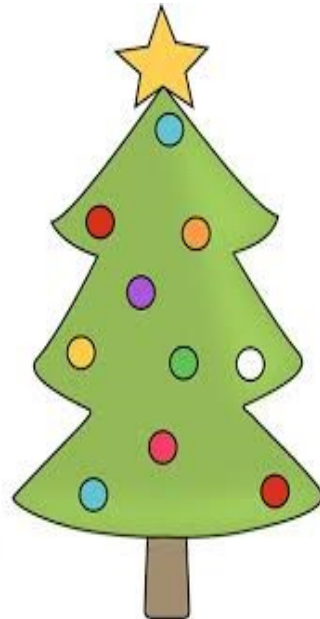


NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING THANK YOU



Thank you to everyone who took time to volunteer to ring the bells at Festival Foods for the Salvation Army.



INTERESTED IN SERVING ON OUR VISION BOARD?

Looking for some way to get involved at Halfway Creek??

We are looking for members of the congregation to serve on the Vision Board beginning in February 2016.

Length of service: one to three years

Time commitment: approximately two hours per month plus participate with other Vision Board members in an occasional congregational activity.

Reward: fellowship, laughter, and an opportunity to grow in your faith, while engaging in the business of the congregation.

If interested or have questions, contact Pastor Jean or a current Vision Board member.

NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

Cookie donations

We welcome cookie donations of any amount—1 dozen or 10 dozen, you decide. Cookies can be brought to the church basement on Sunday morning prior to the service. Cookies will be left in whatever container you bring them in during the walk. Be sure to label any containers you want returned and containers can be picked up after the walk.

You are not required to donate cookies to participate in the walk.

Empty bakery boxes will be provided for people purchasing cookies.



NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

MULTI-GENERATIONAL CHOIR OPPORTUNITY

Our January Halfway Choir Opportunity is for those who cannot commit to more than one rehearsal. It is also open to all adults and school age children. This is the perfect opportunity if you like to sing but do not have much time. We will rehearse on Wednesday, January 6th at 7 pm or Sunday, January 10th at 9:15 am. We will be singing at both services on Sunday, January 10th. Please note that if you plan on singing at the 8 am service, you must attend the Wednesday evening rehearsal. This opportunity will be led by volunteer, Mandi Horstman. You can contact her at 608-780-1653 with questions.

COULEE REGION GOSPEL CHOIR

The Coulee Region Gospel Choir cordially invites you to join us in celebrating our 20th annual Christmas concert, "The Song of Christmas", at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Redwood St and Sand Lake Rd. (Onalaska) on December 4th at 7:00pm, and December 5th at 3:00pm. The 65 voice choir, under the direction of Steve Koch represents over 25 area churches. This season's program features many holiday favorites and concludes with the nativity story filled with traditional carols and hymns. Tickets are not required. A free-will offering helps with expenses and gifts to the Salvation Army.

POINSETTIA ORDERS DUE DECEMBER 3

At Christmas, we decorate the church in celebration of the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. We will be taking orders for poinsettias starting in December. They are \$14.00 this year. If you would like

to present a poinsettia in honor, memory, or celebration of a person or event, please fill out the order form in the bulletin and this newsletter. **Orders are due by Thursday, December 3 at noon.**



SERVING OTHERS IN OUR CONGREGATION

DECEMBER 24—CHRISTMAS EVE			
	2:00 PM	4:00 PM	9:00 PM
Usher/Acolyte	Erin Hale (Bryce)	Steve & Kristi Mally (Rian)	VOLUNTEER NEEDED
Sexton	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED
Lector	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED
Communion Assistant	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED

NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

When Christmas Hurts.....



Do you have the Holiday blues?

Could you benefit from physical, emotional, or spiritual healing?

A BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

For those who are suffering in any way.

Sunday, December 20th

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Halfway Creek Lutheran Church

W6016 County Road W, Holmen

The service will include a time for you to request prayers of healing for yourself and others.

NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

SERVING OTHERS IN OUR CONGREGATION

		ACOLYTE	SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	OFFERING COUNTERS	LECTOR	COMMUNION ASSIST.	USHERS
D E C 6	8 0 0	Savannah Horstman	Mike Martin	Carrie Payne Nicole Stumlin	Rhonda Britton Sonja Nelson	Cassie Tolvstad	Sally Johnson	Travis & Mandi Horstman
	1 0 3 0	Jacob Wegner	Morgan Jostad					
D E C 13	8 0 0	Sayde Nelson	Stan Schwier	Karla Johnson Hannah Scholze	Bette Pedretti Susan Jostad	Noah Nelson	Jackson McCoy	Doug & Jessica Dammen
	1 0 3 0	Zach Arendt	Matt Pagliaro			Dave Gates	Bryce Hale	
D E C 20	8 0 0	Kyron Drugg	Archie Achterkirch	Diane Jostad Nancy Holley	Kendra Bringe	Tara Heiser	Mike Martin	Trinity Drugg
	1 0 3 0	Abby Bramwell	Josh Johnson			Andy Mueller	Kennedy Strangstalien	
D E C 29	9 0 0	Jameson Happyel	Dave Bringe	Barb Hale Bette Pedretti	Stephanie Lubinsky Joe Noth	Brian Mueller	Mary Hammond	Patti Happel

NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1
Erin Nichols | 9
Troy Fiers
Megan Sacia | 18
Daniel Daily |
| 2
Karsen Nelson | 10
Patricia Brandau | 19
Owen Bringe |
| 3
Matthew Payne | 11
Kathryn Yahnke | 20
Troy Lau
Larry Werner
Chad Brandau |
| 4
Alice Jackson | 14
James Bringe | 21
Kelly Anderson |
| 5
Rita Johnson
Cameron Legrave | 15
Mark Thompson | 22
Alayna Casper |
| 6
Laura Oines | 16
Cami Hill | 23
David Erdman
Benjamin Heiser |
| 8
Mason Dokkebaken
Trent Gander
Rian Mally | 17
Meredith Conn
Lindsay Tuquero | 24
Rebecca Moss |



- | |
|-------------------------------|
| 26
Jessica Pedretti |
| 27
Emily Arnold |
| 29
Elsie Barbour |
| 31
Jacob Thornton |



DEER BRAG BOARD

Get a nice looking deer this year? E-mail your picture to our office, assistant@halfwaycreek.org and we'll put your pictures in January's newsletter!

SAVE THE DATE

The Faith and Fitness team is sponsoring a motivational event on January 17th following the 10:30 service, titled Activate the Body to Engage the Mind and Spirit. Ray Martinez from Winona State University will be our guest speaker. More details to come in the January newsletter.



