



# Halfway Creek LUTHERAN CHURCH

## CURRENTS

JANUARY 2016

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### ANNUAL MEETING—FEBRUARY 7

You are invited to come to the annual meeting in the life of the church as the congregation prepares to move ahead into the future. It will take place after worship

on February 7. **THERE IS ONE SERVICE THIS DAY AT 10:30 A.M.** One of the marks of discipleship here at Halfway Creek is to “build relationships that foster faith.” That is

what we will strive to do in this meeting and in the life of the church!

### ANNUAL REPORTS

The annual reports will be mailed out January 25. Please read through it, enjoy the pictures

from the last year, and give thanks to God for all that Halfway Creek has done in the last year to

“Reach out to share Christ with all.”

### YOUR 2015 FINANCIAL RECORD

A copy of your charitable giving to HCLC will be mailed out to you in late January. If you need one before then, please call

Anna (526-3701) in the church office or contact her at [assistant@halfwaycreek.org](mailto:assistant@halfwaycreek.org) to order a copy of

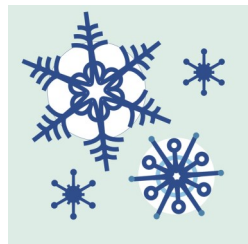
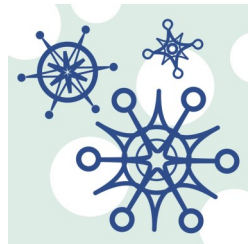
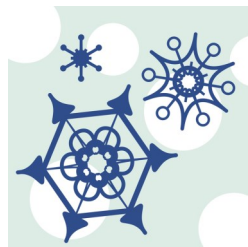
this valuable tax tool. HCLC financial records will be open until December 31, 2015 to accept 2015 donations.

**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](http://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](mailto:assistant@halfwaycreek.org).



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## NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK

### SUNDAY SCHOOL THANK YOU

On December 13th we held our annual Christmas Program. It was a great program! Thank you again to everyone that worked so hard to make this such a wonderful program. That morning, we also took up a free will offering for the

Sunday School program which is self sufficient and depends on everyone's generosity to continue to reach so many young people for Christ. Thank you so much. Thank you also to the parents who faithfully bring their children to

Sunday School so that we can teach them more about God's love in Jesus Christ.

**\*\* Sunday school will resume January 10, 2016 \*\***

### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School will resume on **January 10th** with a Prayer, Pajamas, Pancakes, & Pals Party! So wear your PJs, bring a friend,

and join in the fellowship of breakfast and a movie with your Sunday School friends.

Also mark your calendars for **January 31st**, the Sunday School children will be singing at the 10:30 worship service.

### QUILTING STARTS IN FEBRUARY

The Halfway Creek Women of the ELCA will start quilting in February and continue through March; all are welcome to join the fellowship at church. Please watch for more information in the February newsletter.

### THEOLOGY ON TAP—TIME CHANGE

Theology on Tap will now be meeting at **7:00 p.m.** at the Holmen Meat Locker starting in January.

### 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.

### CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PICTURES





**NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.  
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PICTURES**



**NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK  
SERVING OTHERS IN OUR CONGREGATION**

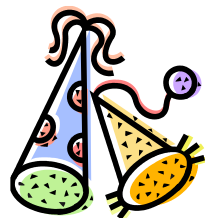
		ACOLYTE	SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	OFFERING COUNTERS	LECTOR	COMMUNION ASSIST.	USHERS
<b>JAN 3</b>	800	Tolvstad	Mike Martin	Carrie Payne Nicole Stumlin	Rhonda Britton Sonja Nelson	Gabby Hanson	Maddy Arendt	Tolvstad
	1030	Conn	Morgan Jostad			Meredith Conn	Jacob Thornton	Conn
<b>JAN 10</b>	800	Noel	Stan Schwier	Karla Johnson Hannah Scholze	Bette Pedretti Susan Jostad	Amy Noel	Ruth Jostad	Noel
	1030	Niedercorn	Matt Pagliaro			Jean Latham	Lee Anderson	Niedercorn
<b>JAN 17</b>	800	Hammond	Archie Achterkirch	Diane Jostad Nancy Holley	Kendra Bringe	Mary Hammond	Amy Noel	Hammond
	1030	Rink	Josh Johnson			John Daily	Jen Strangstalien	Rink
<b>JAN 24</b>	800	Chance Brandau	Russ Bringe	Barb Hale Bette Pedretti	Stephanie Lubinsky Joe Noth	Jackson McCoy	Tyrus McCoy	Chad & Patti Brandau
	J	Jacob Thornton	Dave Bringe			Jacob Thornton	Brooklyn Cook	Carolyn Hackett
<b>JAN 31</b>	800	Erin Bringe	Russ Bringe	Diane Jostad	Mike Martin	Ruth Jostad	Thelma Severson	Dave Bringe
	1030	Maddy Arendt	Dave Bringe			Kristi Johnson	Carter Thiele	Stacie Arendt

**NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.**

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

<b>1</b> Joey Mally	<b>10</b> Duane Crocker	<b>18</b> Jordyn Stasiak
<b>3</b> Edward Swackhamer	Ben Mally	<b>20</b> Donna Anderson
<b>4</b> John Noel	Edward Scholze	James Werner
Carrie Payne	<b>11</b> Mathew Barbour	<b>22</b> Rylend Tuquero
<b>5</b> Jeramia Stankey	<b>13</b> Zachary Mueller	<b>23</b> Kathie Severson
<b>6</b> Keith Casberg	<b>14</b> Mary Jane Nelson	<b>25</b> Chance Brandau
Audrey Clark	Trevor Plomedahl	<b>26</b> Erica Nichols
Petra Nedoba	<b>15</b> Lisa Betsinger	Melissa Noth
<b>7</b> John Stasiak	<b>17</b> Richard Jones	Matt Rink
<b>9</b> Paula Hammes		Camden Thiele

<b>28</b> Ethan Heiser
Corey Hendrickson
<b>30</b> Ellen Stankey
<b>31</b> Ronald Herman



**FAT TUESDAY AT TEXAS ROADHOUSE**

Mark your calendars for a night of fellowship, fun, food and fundraising on Fat Tuesday; Tuesday, February 9th. From 4 pm to 10 pm, we will earn 10% of food sales. More information will be in the February newsletter and upcoming email announcements.

**WINTER JAZZERCISE SESSION**

Start the New Year out right by joining our 8 week Jazzercise session. Jazzercise is a pulse-pounding, beat-pumping fitness program that gets you results...fast. It's a calorie-torching, hip swiveling, Shakira'd-be-proud dance party with a hot playlist to distract you from the burn. Classes will be held on Monday and Thursday afternoons from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm. The 8 week session will run from January 11th through March 3rd and the cost is \$65. You do not need to be a member of Halfway Creek to join the class, so invite your friends. Childcare will be available. If you would like more information or are interested in signing up, please contact Lynn Wegner at 526-3110 or [wegner2005@yahoo.com](mailto:wegner2005@yahoo.com)

**NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.**

**FAITH AND FITNESS SPONSORED GUEST SPEAKER**

The Faith and Fitness team is sponsoring a motivational event on January 17<sup>th</sup> 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!



**CARING TREE MINISTRY**

Thanks to all who participated in this ministry. We had 58 tags for children and all were filled! This generosity will go along way in the hearts of those children we touched. Thank you, Bette

**COULEE REGION GOSPEL CHOIR**

The Coulee Region Gospel Choir starts rehearsals on Jan 17 at 2:00 at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Onalaska. The Easter Musical, "Alpha and Omega" by Deborah Craig Claar and Camp Kirkland, will be directed by Ruth Ann Granum. All Singers are welcome and should reserve their music now at [crgc@centurytel.net](mailto:crgc@centurytel.net)

Three spring concerts are booked for Mar 13, Mar 20 and Apr 3 all at 3:00 at area churches.

Thank you very much, Ruth Ann Granum

**JANUARY ONE REHEARSAL, 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.

\* \* \* \* \*

We will be accepting 2015 offerings through December 31, 2015.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Walking Together in Faith ~ Sharing our way to Healing

*All praise to the God and Father of our Master, Jesus the Messiah! Father of all mercy! God of all healing counsel! 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*

Who – All are welcome, especially anyone working on their personal recovery or emotional healing, and anyone who is impacted by a loved one's journey toward recovery and healing. Friends are also welcome.

Purpose - Provide a safe, confidential place to share experiences and build hope through community.

What - These are *open meetings*, meaning you can come and go at anytime. Each time we meet it will be something new. There are no expectations for level of involvement. You can sit and listen, or you can share as much or as little as you want. Sometimes simply hearing others' stories can be comforting. Please don't feel as if you have to 'have it altogether' before you join us; come as you are and know you will be accepted and supported!

When – Our next meeting is scheduled for January 17<sup>th</sup>. Starting in February we will meet the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month. We meet between services from 9:15-10:15. February meeting dates are Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> and Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>.

Where – Pastor Jean's office

What to expect -

Opening Prayer

Opportunity to share

Devotion with discussion

Ending prayer

If you are interested in additional information please contact Kristi Mally at 608-790-7122, Kendra Bringe at 608-487-5283, or Pastor Jean at 608-526-3701

***We will heal with God's Love and Together Strength***



## NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

### VISION BOARD DECEMBER 17, 2015 MINUTES

David Gates called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Pastor led us in a devotional reflection on the text of "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day".

The Vision Board approved the following invoices via email on 12/9/15 because of the rescheduled time of the meeting: Glass Service Center - \$8.44, Olympic Builders - \$72.80, Gexpro - \$3,050.71.

The Secretary's Report was presented. Marna made a motion to approve. Sydney Craig seconded. Motion approved.

Bob Bandoli reported that church finances are in good shape going into Christmas. This is historically the time of year when offerings peak.

Maternity leave for Anna Mally was discussed. We will make a decision in January as to whether the leave is paid or unpaid and whether to create a formal policy concerning maternity leave.

We discussed personnel raises for the 2016 budget. We are considering an increase of 2% for all lay positions. Pastor Jean's increase will be according to Synod Guidelines, as in the past. Lynn has requested an increase of \$4,300

per year to bring her in line with the actual time she is putting in and added responsibilities. She was hired under the assumption that her position would be for 15 hrs per week. Year-long tracking of her hours show that she averages 17 hrs per week. The position of Connections Coordinator was discussed. This position rose out of discussions at the Annual Conversation and Celebration and the need for a volunteer/administrative coordinator. We will discuss these proposals at the January meeting for possible inclusion in the budget.

Sydney Craig and Pastor Jean presented the youth report. Santa Shop went very well this year. The added space was definitely a plus for keeping everything running smoothly. The Confirmation Class had a white elephant gift exchange party on Wednesday night which was a joyous success.

We will have a healing service on December 20<sup>th</sup>. There will be healing prayers at both services. The grant for growing churches has been submitted. The proposal was assembled by Pastor Jean, Marna Holley, Kristi Mally and Amy Noel. If awarded, the grant will help us fund the new Connections Coordinator position, help fund the increase for Lynn Wegner for the first

two years, and fund continuing education for staff and lay leaders to promote healthy growth in the congregation.

We are expecting an insurance quote from Bluffside Insurance for comparison to our current coverage through Church Mutual.

The DREAM (Stewardship) Team has been assembled. Members include Sonja Nelson, Carolyn Bjerke, Kermit Jostad, Matt Pagliaro, Amy Noel, Earl Hammond, Nic Hill, and Lynn Wegner. We thank them for volunteering to serve on this new and vital team.

The Vision Board decided to wait until the Connection Coordinator is in place to develop event guidelines for all teams.

Marna Holley encouraged the Vision Board to keep utilizing the feedback from the Annual Conversation and Celebration to continue Strategic Planning for the congregation.

The January Vision Board meeting will take place on January 14, 2016 at Pizza Corral.

Sydney Craig made a motion to adjourn. Sue Chase and Shelly Vander Linden seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:19pm.

