



CURRENTS

JULY 2016

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- PASTOR-NOTES** 2
- WORSHIP LEADERS** 3
- JULY BIRTH-DAYS** 4
- ELCA RESPONSE TO ORLANDO** 5
- UPCOMING EVENTS** 6
- NEW MEMBERS** 7
- UPCOMING EVENTS** 8
- CALL COMMITTEE** 11

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- July 3 inside 9:00 a.m. worship.
- July 10 inside 9:00 a.m. worship lead by Pastor Garman who served Halfway from 1988-1998.
- July 17 inside 9:00 a.m. worship inside commissioning our youth and chaperones on their mission trip to Pine Ridge Reservation.
- July 24 inside worship at 9:00 a.m.
- July 31 A celebration of the new building and the new life it offers, and a service of thanksgiving for all who labored, cleaned, dreamed, installed, debated, offered, persevered and are here to touch the walls of God's house. We will celebrate outside, with steel pan music from the Caribbean, laughter, and song. Please find time in your busy summer, to come to the house you have built for God's good grace and pleasure.
- Journey will be hosting summer services on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. through August 31st. Pastor Janet will be sharing leading duties. Hot dogs and s'mores will be served after worship (you can make your offering for Halfway Creek; it will be sent over).



JULY

HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH
 W6016 County Road W
 Holmen, WI 54636
 Phone 608-526-3701
 Pastor Janet Wollam
 Worship at 9:00 a.m. Sundays.
www.halfwaycreek.org

Return Service Requested

OFFICE HOURS

The office will be open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays from 8:30 a.m to 1:30 p.m. If you need to reach Kim Wagner, you may leave a message on the answering machine or e-mail her at assistant@halfwaycreek.org.

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PASTORNOTES

Strawberries have been good, blueberries and sweet corn are just around the corner. It is raining often enough so far. The different blues and greens and golds and textures of the fields, woods and sky make any artist or quilt maker jealous. Life in the land is good. Even farmers take the random break to drink coffee and marvel, predict and worry.

And all of us keep on racing around. If you have kids, it's child care and baseball and swimming, and maybe a little fishing. For the rest, it is family gatherings, house maintenance, yards and...well, you fill in the blank. Not much of a Sabbath for most of us. Sabbath is a day to consider this life and a new one

The Sabbath is the time when we stop doing, doing, doing, to reflect or just be. Sabbath is a day to consider this life and a new, risen one. This summer, in this congregation, is a special kind of Sabbath. It is the Sabbath of the in between times. A time to sit back and take in the bigger picture. It is a time to have conversation, explore the past and present and future. Even if it feels a little un-natural, it is a time not to rush.

Life at Halfway Creek has been deeply affected by the events of this past year. There is a new building to get to know still, staff positions to define and develop, loss and understanding to explore. And praise and thanksgiving for a steadfast God to be shared. The thing is, if we rush toward fall, if we try to "keep momentum", we will miss what we might learn. We need to listen carefully, to others in small settings, to the community around us, to the sound of the trees against blue or storm sky. We need to look for new pictures in the clouds. In short we need time to breathe and think, and pray and to imagine the next new worlds.

That is not to say that nothing will be happening here. Momentum lives. Halfway has a new administrative assistant, Kim Wagner, so we will have an office, a center, a touchpoint, for all teams and members. Our Youth will experience God's presence in communication with the good people of Pine Ridge Reservation, with the help of good adults. And we had two cows and a calf. And a baptism.

The finance team is streamlining, organizing and communicating. Our giving is being attended to, the stewardship team is doing their homework and preparing. New members and others are being visited and we start July with four new families who have joined this body of faith. On July 31 we will celebrate the end of our three year building pledge cycle with steel band pans and an outdoor service. Vacation Bible School happens here. And so on and on...

Sabbath is a little like letting yeast rise. Lots is happening, but we need to step back and admire its mystery, knead it and muse about who might come to the table, how we will gather together-before we bake the dough. Insufficient time to sit in the warm and rise would not give us the best bread to share.

Slowing down can get us there faster, with better effort. It works like a swim stroke or running form: slow down and center. Relax a little and feel the shape of how arms and legs and breath are being used. Tweek here and there. And find yourself at the finish line.

Sabbath is good. Room for us and God and grace to see and hear one another. Together. Mondays, and new life and pastors, are better for it. Have a good one in July yourself. Happy Sabbath. Pastor Janet

NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Call Committee would like your input regarding the qualities, characteristics and priorities of a Halfway Creek Lutheran Church pastor. It's part of their process of completing a congregational profile—an important piece for selecting the right candidate. There are many ways you can participate. An online survey has been sent to everyone who is part of the email list, a link has been posted on the church website, a copy is in this newsletter, and paper copies will be available in church each Sunday through July.

The survey is for members, Confirmation age and older. We ask that you only complete one (either online or on paper). Feedback will be sought through the end of July.

Paper surveys can be returned on the table in the back of the church, or mailed to the church office, W6016 CTH W, Holmen, WI 54636.

Two "Listening Sessions" have also been scheduled, and you're invited to participate, Tuesday, July 19, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, July 24, following worship. Both sessions will be held at church. Questions for the Listening Sessions include: What hopes and dreams do we have for our new pastor? What fears and worries do we have for our new pastor? What gifts are needed in our new pastor?

The Call Committee will be completing their site profile in August, and anticipates starting to review candidates this fall. Call Committee members are Rich Berger (Chair), Jen Strangstalien, Travis Horstman, Gaye Johnson, Jackson McCoy and Marna Holley.

If you'd like to sign up for church email updates, please send an email to assistant@halfwaycreek.org. You can also keep in touch with church news by liking our Facebook page.

NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

Halfway Creek Women Salad Luncheon/Program

AUGUST 10, 2016

NOON

All are welcome

Bring a salad to share

Call Ruth Scholze at 608-526-3064 to register



SUNDAY SCHOOL & NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 2016-2017

Please contact Jenessa Hill at 507-313-3391 if you are willing to serve in our children’s ministry in any way . We are looking for volunteers to teach classes and assist, substitute teach, plan celebrations, and help with music. We are also looking for volunteers to staff the nursery during the late service during the school year.

DO YOU SHOP ON AMAZON? EARN DONATIONS FOR HALFWAY CREEK

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Halfway Creek Lutheran Church every time you shop, at no cost to you. You need to shop Amazon through the link smile.amazon.com and select Halfway Creek Lutheran Church as our charity. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. If you have an Amazon account already, it will work through the smile.amazon.com shopping link.

CONCERNS REGARDING THE PASTOR EMAIL ACCOUNT

It has been brought to our attention that emails from pastor@halfwaycreek.org are still appearing as though they are being sent from Jean Pagliaro. The office has updated everything in our email system regarding the pastor email account. We have taken every step to ensure that Jean Pagliaro does not have access to the pastor’s email address anymore. If you are still receiving emails that appear from Jean’s name, you may have to update our computer’s email address book.

POP CAN CORRAL

Just a friendly reminder that the pop can corral is for **aluminum cans ONLY**. We do NOT collect tin cans, plastic bottles, and glass. The volunteers that take the cans in would appreciate it if you would rinse the cans before bagging them for the corral. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

SERVING OTHERS IN OUR CONGREGATION

	SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	OFFERING COUNTERS	LECTOR	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	USHERS	ACOLYTE
J U L Y 3	Mike Martin	Carrie Payne Nicole Stumlin	Rhonda Britton Sonja Nelson	Pat Martin	Mike Martin	Carrie Payne Aiztdon Stumlin	Aiztdon Stumlin
J U L Y 10	Stan Schwier	Karla Johnson Hannah Scholze	Bette Pedretti Susan Jostad	Marge Lee	Cassie Tolvstad	Bryce Hale Erin Hale	Bryce Hale
J U L Y 17	Archie Achterkirch	Diane Jostad Nancy Holley	Patti Happel	Ray Lee	Patti Happel	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
J U L Y 24	Dave Bringe	Bette Pedretti Barb Hale	Joe Noth	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Jen Strangstalien	Kennedy Strangstalien
J U L Y 31	Archie Achterkirch	Diane Jostad	Mike Martin	Volunteer Needed	Thelma Severson	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed

NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

<p>1 Braxtyn Jensen-Pralle Earl Hammond</p> <p>4 Warren Booth</p> <p>6 Ryan Beville Daryl Holley Mel Prinz Ann Stasiak</p> <p>8 Nicole Craig DeeDee Kolbo</p> <p>9 Bette Pedretti Katherine Stasiak</p>	<p>10 Nola Anderson Katharine Lavold</p> <p>11 Heather Dokkebaken Fe Miller Jacob Wegner</p> <p>12 Gladys Albers Leann Theisen</p> <p>13 Jessie Booth Jerin Rink</p> <p>14 Joel Oines</p>	<p>15 Cassondra Bandoli Raymond Lee</p> <p>16 Carolyn Bjerke Christine Booth Richard Granum</p> <p>17 Gracie Holley</p> <p>18 Diana Berger</p> <p>19 Richard Gran Macie Larson Darren Nelson Alyssa Rink</p>	<p>23 Landry Hill</p> <p>24 Joanne Nichols</p> <p>25 Ella Gander</p> <p>26 Camden Lee</p> <p>28 Carilyn Daily Erin Hale Lane Hansen</p> <p>30 Benjamin Nichols</p> <p>31 Kendall Yahnke</p>
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*Happy
Birthday*



NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

WELCOME KIM WAGNER

Kim Wagner was hired as the new Administrative Assistant in June. She and her husband, Wayne, of 5 years have a daughter, Kendall who is 18 months old. Kim is originally from Hazel Green, WI and Wayne is from Marshfield. Wayne works as the Head Men’s Basketball coach at Viterbo University. Both Kim and Wayne are graduates of Viterbo. In their spare time, Kim likes to run and Wayne is a golfer. They enjoy spending time with their families and love the Packers!

OFFICE HOURS

The church office hours will be from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

A year to date giving statement was mailed to all members in June. If you did not receive this mailing, please contact the office at assistant@halfwaycreek.org. In addition, the Simply Giving Enrollment Form was inadvertently omitted in that mailing. It is included in this newsletter. If you have questions about enrolling in Simply Giving, you can contact treasurer@halfwaycreek.org.

MUSIC AND LITURGY TEAM UPDATE

The Music & Liturgy Team met in June. They discussed tracking communion attendance and collecting information for visitor follow-up. The team decided these are two separate issues and are researching all possible options for each issue. The sexton check list is being reviewed and there will be sexton training held before fall programming begins.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Do you have a problem or concern you would like to discuss in a confidential setting but feel it just isn’t big enough or serious enough to be “Stephen Ministry” worthy? Think again. Stephen Ministers can be assigned for either short or long-term concerns. Don’t suffer alone; allow a Christian listener to walk with you. Talk to a pastor for a referral to a Stephen Minister.



CHOIR LOFT AREA REMODIFICATION

In order to utilize our sanctuary space more effectively, the Music & Liturgy Team has come up with a plan to remodel the choir loft area. This will be a minimal cost project, but we are in need congregational volunteers to help with the remodel. The work will be scheduled from July 31st through August 13th. Please contact Lynn Wegner at 526-3110 or John Daily at 781-1811 if you are able to help.



NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Profit & Loss statement for January 1—June , 2015

General Fund Income:	\$ 62,799.16
General Fund Expenses:	\$ 68,153.95
General Fund Net Loss:	\$ — 5354.79
Building Fund Balance	\$— 670.97

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

VISION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Vision Board Meeting for June was rescheduled for later in the month of June. Due to the meeting being rescheduled, the minutes for May 2016 had not been approved for publication at the time of the printing. The August newsletter will contain both the May and June 2016 minutes.

LIMITED TIME THRIVENT CHOICE OFFER

For a limited time, Thrivent members have the opportunity to direct \$20 Choice Dollars® to Halfway Creek Lutheran Church. To take advantage of this great opportunity, register on Thrivent.com. This online-only offer is available to you for a limited time. **Please take action to direct Choice Dollars by August 1, 2016.**

HOLMEN’S HOPE SUMMER LUNCH DONATIONS NEEDED

Summer is here and Holmen’s Hope is providing a summer lunch program for kids. Once again we are asking for your help in collecting fruit snacks in pre-packaged individual snack size bags.

If you are able to help in any way we would greatly appreciate it. Donations can be dropped off at the Holmen American Legion. If you need assistance in picking things up, please contact Patty Bagniewski at 399-1458.

WOMEN OF HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH

Thanks to the Halfway Creek ladies who helped make the North Synod WELCA Summer Event a great success. The centerpieces were beautiful, there were plenty of desserts and sweets for the guests, wonderful music, prayers, and fellowship.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God’s work. Our hands.

June 13, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them.” Genesis 1:27

We are killing ourselves. We believe that all people are created in God’s image. All of humanity bears a family resemblance. Those murdered in Orlando were not abstract “others,” they are us. But somehow, in the mind of a deeply disturbed gunman, the LGBTQ community was severed from our common humanity. This separation led to the death of 49 and the wounding of 54 of us.

We live in an increasingly divided and polarized society. Too often we sort ourselves into like-minded groups and sort others out. It is a short distance from division to demonization. Yesterday, we witnessed the tragic consequences of this.

There is another way. In Christ God has reconciled the world to God’s self. Jesus lived among us sharing our humanity. Jesus died for us to restore our humanity. God invites us into this reconciling work. This must be our witness as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The perpetrator of this hate crime did not come out of nowhere. He was shaped by our culture of division, which itself has been misshapen by the manipulation of our fears. That is not who we are. St. Paul wrote, “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ.” (II Corinthians 5:17-20)

Our work begins now. We need to examine ourselves, individually and as a church, to acknowledge the ways we have divided and have been divided. We must stand with people who have been “othered”. We must speak peace and reconciliation into the cacophony of hatred and division. We must live the truth that all people are created in God’s image.

This morning your churchwide staff came together to mourn and to pray. We prayed for those killed in Orlando and remembered the Charleston Nine killed only a year ago. We prayed for the family of the shooter, for our LGBTQ brothers and sisters and for our Muslim brothers and sisters who now face the threat of retaliation. And we prayed that the Prince of Peace will bring us to the day when we stop killing ourselves.

Your sister in Christ,

Elizabeth A. Easton
 Presiding Bishop
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

July 17—Mission Trip Youth Commissioning

On Sunday, July 17, we will commission our youth and chaperones as they prepare to leave on their mission trip to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

**JULY 31—STEEL DRUM SERVICE
& BUILDING PLEDGE DRIVE
CELEBRATION**



We are excited to welcome Jim Knutson, local percussionist, who will be joining our Worship Team on Sunday, July 31st to lead a Steel Drum Worship Service at 9 a.m. In addition, we will be celebrating the successful completion of our 3 year building pledge drive after the service. The service will be held outdoors, weather permitting.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

August 14-17

Plans are already underway for Vacation Bible School in August!

We will be combining with Journey Lutheran again.

Details to come!

NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

At our June 26th worship, we welcomed 14 new members:

Jeremy, Jessica, Brianna and Brooklynn Cook

Paul, Jodi and Jillian Eide

Patti and Jameson Happel

Bob, Jodi, Camden, and Cohen Lee

Trish Syverson

