



CURRENTS

MAY 2017

On the Road Again.....

PASTOR NOTES

After Easter, after the empty tomb, after all the bunny eggs have hopefully been accounted, for and the chocolate consumed, we settle into a new season. It feels strangely like the old one, just warmer. The workload does not diminish, sports schedules just change their names, school activities ramp up for year's end and summer plans demand attention. Folks look longingly ahead for vacation, face-in-the-lake time.

So it is with Halfway Creek. We made it through the year's anniversaries, and did well. Like Jesus followers on the road, walking away from Jerusalem and the mysterious event on Easter morning, we are liable to see nothing more than the ordinary in our path. We believe in God's promise of new life. In the ordinary, there are new opportunities for resurrection everywhere we step, all along the path.

I see signs of new life: new members, new visitors, new ideas for what the church can do, a sense, finally, of new energy. We have new people coming forward to lead, and provide energy where others have spent all of theirs. This means that the whole body is renewing, not all at the same rate, but coming along.

There has been lots of tending of the garden of faith. It is like spring outside: it will not come up just the way it was in the garden last year, but in new and resilient ways. Our challenge is to see beauty and life in what is new, surprising and different, as well as in the dependable ways and history that brought us to this point.

Faith involves paying close attention. In the garden I hang upside down to identify what birds or wind have planted for me and where, what has wintered well, or become compost. Like Easter travelers leaving Jerusalem, we do not want to miss the new life among us, just because it does not look like what we remember.

This time before a new pastor joins the congregation is even more important than the past year. It is a time when we try out, and practice, how we will be together and with new leadership. Just as we are settling into the building more, we are settling into what we need as a new church. Like a young person outgrowing shoes, some things don't feel right and we keep adjusting to our not so small, not so rural setting. It takes work to shift from the urgency and deadlines of a major building project to the slower tasks of untangling how we do things in ways that honor and protect all that has been created.

Jesus is here, in the very lovely body that is Halfway Creek. Greet someone you do not know well. Thank a Sunday school teacher, give thanks to a Holmen's Hope worker, admire the decades of being present of a seasoned member, ask a student what they will do this summer thank the board for their vision. Count the cows, wonder at this beautiful place, and its heart, and what it might be in months and years ahead. See Jesus and new life in this garden, everywhere. On the road again, sharing Christ with all, Pastor Janet

NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK CONFIRMATION ON MAY 7



Confirmands will be affirming their baptism in the Rite of Confirmation on Sunday, May 7 at the 10:30 a.m. worship. Support our young

people on this milestone of their faith journey! The Confirmands this year are: Maddy Arendt, Abby Bramwell, Chance Brandau, Ella

Gander, Max Hammond, Masen Harper, Aiden Noth, Chesney Plomedahl, & Olivia Temp

MAY SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE CHANGE

MAY 21ST - Last Day of Sunday school

end celebration

9am - Worship together and teacher appreciation

Watch for more information from your student's teacher.

10 am Sunday School garden planting and year



MAY & SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

May 21—One Service at 9:00 a.m.—SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS

May 28—One service at 9:00 a.m.

HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES

On June 4 at our 9 am service, the high school and college graduates will be honored. Please contact the church office by May 15 if you are graduating this spring.



SUMMER USHERS AND ACOLYTES NEEDED

Are you interested in helping out at worship services this summer? We typically have confirmation students and their families Usher and Acolyte, but in the summer, we open this up to anyone that wants to help. This is open to people of all ages. Families with young

children may want to volunteer as a way to introduce them to serving in the church. Your duties are to light the candles before service, hand out bulletins and take up the collection. If we get enough volunteers, you may only be asked to do this once this

summer. Please look for a sign up sheet during Worship services in May. You will also be able to sign up online via a link in the email announcements.



NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK

SERVING OTHERS IN OUR CONGREGATION

Mother's Day

		ACOLYTE	SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	OFFERING COUNTERS	LECTOR	COMMUNION ASSIST.	USHERS
MAY 7	8 0 0	Volunteer needed	Mike Martin	Carrie Payne Nicole Stumlin	Rhonda Britton Sonja Nelson	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed
	1 0 3 0	Volunteer needed	Morgan Jostad			Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed
MAY 14	8 0 0	Volunteer needed	Stan Schwier	Karla Johnson Diane Jostad	Bette Pedretti Susan Jostad	Volunteer needed	Thelma Severson	Volunteer needed
	1 0 3 0	Volunteer needed	David Chase			Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed
MAY 21	9 0 0	Volunteer needed	Archie Achterkirch	Nancy Holley Diane Jostad	Jodi Eide Patti Happel	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed
MAY 28	9 0 0	Volunteer needed	Dave Bringe Russ Bringe	Bette Pedretti Barb Hale	Joe Noth	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed

Thank you for your participation in our worshipping community.

If you are unable to volunteer for a time in which you are listed, please find somebody to take your place.

You may also sign up on SignUp Genius through our website Halfwaycreek.org

NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK MAY BIRTHDAYS



1
Abigail Fredrickson
Lise Graham

7
Joshua Daily

15
Charlie Jenks
Kermit Jostad

25
Priscilla Achterkirch
Jon Strangstalien
Olivia Temp

2
Shayne Herman
Keena Noth
Melissa Strauss

8
Seth Heiser
Megan Jostad-Myhre
Samantha Hammond

16
William Achterkirch

26
Chelsey Bauer
Ashton Herman

3
Tina Mueller

9
Evelyn Clark

17
Roger Casberg
Nicole Plomedahl

27
Susan Anderson
Jeffrey Severson

4
Laura Arnold
Nancy Holley

10
Lauren Bringe
Samantha Daily
Patricia Krause
Betty Schmidt

19
Susan Chase

31
Pamela Gran

5
Paul Anderson
Lyle Gordon
Joseph Noth

11
Mary Severson

20
Dylan Severson
Zach Arendt

6
Benjamin Johnson

14
Sayde Nelson
Wesley Witte

24
Barb Hale
James Noel



Did we miss your birthday? Please call the church office (526-3701) to help us update our records. Thank you.

NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

YOUTH GROUP THANK YOU

A big thank you to everyone who helped out and participated in our Lent dinners this year! Thanks for all who sold tickets and came to eat at the Big Boar Barbecue on April 8th.

Remember to fill your car and bellies with Kwik Trip and Festival Gift Cards.

Thank you to Cassie Tolvstad for pulling it together.

OFFERING COUNTERS NEEDED

We are need of offering counter volunteers to count on the 4th and 5th Sunday of the month. Please contact Rhonda Britton at 526-3867 or the Church Office at 526-3701 if you are willing to volunteer.



THANK YOU—HOLMEN'S HOPE

HOLMEN'S HOPE was a great success. Taco Tuesday was a hit. People lingered and chatted and so community ties were strengthened. Thank you so much to all who cooked, carried, set up served, and cleaned A special thanks to Joanne Nichols and Mary Hammond for taking on this project for the first time.

New Life found them and they shared it by feeding the multitudes.

CALL COMMITTEE

The committee is waiting to receive new candidates through the synod office and Pastor Libby Howe.

HCLC YOUTH GROUP SILENT AUCTION

The HCLC Youth Group continues to raise money for their adventure to Montana this summer. We would like to do a silent auction before and after services on May 7th and through May 14th. We are looking for donations to auction off. If you are a crafter and have items to donate or would like to purchase and create a basket of items please contact Mandi Horstman at [608-780-1653](tel:608-780-1653) or adhorstman2000@gmail.com. We would like to have 10-15 baskets/items for the auction. Deadline for items would be Friday 5/5.

JOIN US AT BURRACHOS

Join us MAY 24th at Burrachos in Onalaska for a fundraising night for our youth summer trip. Eat in or take out, sit and talk over a meal. Luke would approve!

See you on May 24th!

NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

VISION BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 2017

Minutes of Halfway Creek Lutheran Church Vision Board Meeting February 23, 2017

Bob Bandoli, Joanne Nichols, Joe Noth, Jen Stangstalien, Rick Johnson, Alex Pedretti

Meeting called to order at 6:40 PM

We started the meeting with introductions.

Pastor Wollam led us in a devotion using the book "We Make the Road by Walking."

Jen gave us an update on the call committee process. The Call Committee has interviewed three candidates and have narrowed it down to two candidates. The call committee still need to make reference checks and are hoping to be able to present a candidate to the Vision Board soon.

Bob gave us a financial update including the current balance of the bank accounts. We discussed the Stewardship program as well as ways to promote simply giving such as including simply giving forms with the quarterly giving statements. We also discussed the current financial software and the possibility of hiring a bookkeeper for two days a week.

We discussed going to an electronic newsletter. The Vision Board agreed to switch to an electronic newsletter. If a mailed copy is needed, they will still be available upon request.

We discussed the upcoming Holmen's Hope meal on April 25th and the Vision Board helping to put this together.

We tabled the Election of Officers until the March Vision Board meeting.

Joanne made a motion to approve the minutes from three January Vision Board meetings. Jen seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Jen made a motion to adjourn. Rick seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.

Faithfully submitted,

Joe Noth



NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

VISION BOARD MINUTES CONTINUED

Minutes of Halfway Creek Lutheran Church Vision Board Meeting March 16, 2017

Members present are Rich Berger, Bob Bandoli, Joanne Nichols, Joe Noth, Jen Strangstalien, Rick Johnson & Alex Pedretti.

Rich called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm

Pastor Wollam led us in devotion. Each member reflected on something currently going on in his life. Pastor led a prayer for all members and circumstances mentioned.

A motion was brought to approve the minutes from the February 23 Vision Board meeting by Bob. Rick seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

A motion was brought by Jen to approve Joe Noth as president and Joanne Nichols as secretary with Rich Berger continuing as vice president and Bob Bandoli as treasurer. Bob seconded the motion. The motion was approved. It was noted we should have one or two additional members on the board.

Jen and Rich gave an update from the call committee. Three candidates were interviewed. The committee released one candidate and the other two released themselves. They are in contact with the Synod. They have no other names now but will restart the search.

Lynn Wegner has been filling in as the office assistant since November 2016. She resigned the position on March 11. Pastor and Jodi will keep the office hours the same. Lynn also requested and was granted a 2-3 week leave of absence from her music ministry position. Pastor is arranging for supply musicians and the worship team will also continue to help prepare music for the services.

Pastor has formed a personnel committee consisting of Amy Noel and Wendy McCoy. They will begin the search for a new office assistant shortly.

We discussed the difference in responsibilities between a congregational member and an employee. Most of the church staff has these dual roles. The responsibilities as an employee should be put first.

Bob gave us an update on finances. Carolyn Bjerke is reorganizing the chart of accounts in QuickBooks. We discussed providing more financial information in the bulletin and newsletter.

Rich brought a motion to adjourn. Jen seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Faithfully submitted,

Joanne Nichols

**HALFWAY CREEK
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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