

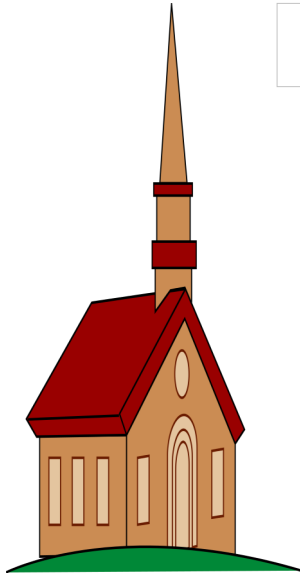


Halfway Creek

LUTHERAN CHURCH

CURRENTS

JULY 2017



SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

JULY

July 2nd--Inside service

July 9th--Outside service

July 16th--Inside service

July 23rd--Inside service

July 30th--Outside service

AUGUST

August 6th--Inside service

August 13th--Outside service

August 20th--Inside service

August 27th--Outside service

JULY



Midweek Worship Services at Journey Lutheran

Journey Lutheran began their Midweek Worship Services on Wednesday, June 14. The worship services are on Wednesday evenings beginning at 6:30pm. Halfway Creek Lutheran Church members are invited to join them for this informal Service each week during the summer.

NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1 Braxtyn Jensen-Pralle Earl Hammond	11 Heather Dokkebakken Jacob Wegner	16 Carolyn Bjerke Richard Granum	25 Ella Gander
6 Ryan Beville Brianna Cook Daryl Holley Ann Stasiak	12 Gladys Albers Leann Theisen	17 Gracie Holley	26 Camden Lee
8 Nicole Craig DeeDee Kolbo	13 Jessie Booth Jerin Rink	18 Diana Berger	28 Carilyn Daily Erin Hale Lane Hansen
9 Bette Pedretti Katherine Stasiak	14 Mike Bramwell Joel Oines	19 Richard Gran Macie Larson Darren Nelson Alyssa Rink	31 Kendall Yahnke
10 Nola Anderson	15 Cassandra Bandoli Raymond Lee	23 Landry Hill	
		24 Joanne Nichols	



Happy
Birthday

PASTORNOTES

During Lent, those who came on Wednesday nights watched a DVD series called *Walking the Bible*. It is a wilderness travelogue that follows the people of Israel from the garden of Eden through slavery in Egypt and through the wilderness to the promised land. The videos and narration are contemporary to our times. It is a story of land and people, abundance and deep need. Most of all it is the story of a promise that never ends: God's promise of new life.

The wilderness story is bedrock for my faith. I love when it comes up in the lectionary or when Lent lets me wander in it. When you ask folks what a wilderness is like, there are all kinds of answers: the forest, hunting land...many images have to do with wide open space. When I ask, "what makes it a wilderness, answers get more specific: not many people, woods (we do live in the north country 😊). When I ask what it feels like, it gets more interesting still. A place where you do not know your way for sure, where you don't know who or have no one to ask, where food for the journey might not be easy to get, where one is at the mercy of others, animals or weather. *It is the response of uncertainty.* And so it was with the people of God. Snakes, parched lands and mouths, tired and crabby co-travellers, unsure leadership in Moses, and a seemingly endless journey filled with dubious road turn choices. In fact, it felt so irritating and hopeless that the group started the murmur of "*the way we were*". They started talking fondly of *Egypt*, where the food had been good and the royal court surroundings lovely, even though they were captive.

When I ask folks what in their lives feels like wilderness, new middle or high schools pop up pretty fast among youth. Hospital halls, new jobs, parenting, unemployment, illness, recovery, deep loss start to paint a landscape that is our own desert. It is time in between, unmoored, never the old life and not yet the new.

As we watch ground being broken just down the road, we can literally see new life. But it does not feel familiar. Yet there is no going back. We have packed in our hearts and minds and souls what travels: the promises of God in the life of Halfway Creek: open and welcoming hearts, joyful praise, a place for anyone whom we can console, walk with, towards a new tomorrow.

Moses will not quite get there, prophets will change, the generations will partly remember but, maybe, there is nothing left behind. God is never left where we were. God is not left behind, but is with us as we explore our hearts and hopes under desert stars. Today's beauty may seem foreign to those who remember Egypt. It is not going to be beautiful again *some day*. It is beautiful now. God is with us here, every moment, every step. We hasten or drag down the road with Moses and then with different disciples. We look for Jesus. Jesus has already found us, walks with us so we can walk together, until the end of time.

Pastor Janet

ps The *Walking the Bible* dvd is available in my office.

YOUNG CHILDREN IN CHURCH Playgrounds for little ones up front.

For generations it was the rule that children in church should be seen and not heard. Parents through the ages have devised all means of trying to make that happen. Churches have built "crying rooms" and glass walled containers that have the distinct feel of an aquarium. While all of these may have their place, children also have a place, right in the sanctuary. In my last churches, we established space at the back, with easy access that had open floor and a place for parents, quiet toys, books, and activities. I would change out the "stuff" either to go with the theme of the day, or just for variety. I longed for closer-to-the-front space. Halfway Creek has just such space to try out. There is enough room to get around, to have a very little one asleep in a carrier, room for tables and chairs for coloring and puzzles, and carpet space for reading a book and being comfortable. So why not try it?

For those who like to be inconspicuous, it may seem "up front". I would suggest to you that your children are in many ways less visible since they are not crawling around and over folks in the pews. A downside is the entertainment lost to your neighbors. Others might think they are just a bit more "out of the way". I like children and families in the way: in the way of the musician, in the way of my vision when I am up front, in the way of what is happening near the altar, and the come and go. I also like children in the way of the music, not just the up front kind with real people, but the way the congregation's singing surrounds them. That does not happen when they behind the voices, looking at backs. What if you have to leave, or the yowl of the ages pierces the air?. Well, so what? It is the sound of life together, even if it gets you more attention for a moment than most of us want

If kids are really antsy, I will know I had better wrap it up, right? Brunch comes earlier.

It may not be for you, or not for every Sunday, but I am happy to say that there is lots of great precedent out there, for those who crave a proven product. Churches all around the country, who share my love of intergenerational ministry are doing it. They say, it is a good thing. I have had offers to bring in activities and toys already, and comments about potential. Let's see how it goes. Just don't let anyone else make up your mind for you. Oh, wait, except for your kids. Pastor Janet

NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

VISION BOARD MEETING

To keep our members and friends current on events. I will be submitting highlights of the board meeting going forward. A complete copy of the minutes once approved, will be available on the bulletin board outside the office.

Highlights from the Vision Board meeting May 18, 2017

- **Rich reported for the call committee. The Synod has not contacted the committee about a candidate.
- **Chris Helgersen has started the lawncare for the season.
- **Gave approval to have Wettstein's put breakers in the kitchen electrical panel from the general fund.
- **Bob reported that as of April 30 the current year profit is \$20, 258.59.
- **The administrative assistant job description is completed. The position is posted. The personal committee hopes to have the position filled by mid-June.
- **Approved the job description and posting of the finance assistant position as recommended by the personnel committee

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Nichols

Highlights of Vision Board meeting June 15, 2017

- **Bob Bandoli presented the finance committee's recommendations regarding staffing of the financial position.
- **Provided a nomination packet to a perspective new board member.
- **Pastor updated the board on upcoming baptisms, interested new members, upcoming worship events.
- **WELCA has agreed to contribute their remaining funds to the General Fund.
- **Rick J. has volunteered to be our World Hunger representative.
- **We approved the candidate that Amy Noel brought forward on behalf of the personnel team for the office assistant.
- **Rich reported for the call committee. The Synod has not contacted the committee about a candidate.
- **The July Vision Board meeting will be the 4th Thursday which will be July 27th.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Nichols

NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

Congratulations to Samantha Sue Daily and Kevin David Bartnik who were united in marriage at Halfway Creek Lutheran Church on Saturday, June 24, 2017.

Welcome to Justin Happel & Jenna Hanson and their son, Bryson. They will become Halfway Creek Lutheran Church members on July 2nd. Welcome to Halfway Creek Lutheran Church—we are glad you are here!

In Our Prayers:

Roy Ackerman, Talon Lichtie, Aiden Noth, Katie Wier, Diane McKee, Wally Bucholtz, Finn Swenson, Penny Pomeroy, Phoebe Kitzke, Sophia Zematis, Kathy Johnson, Ayla Humphrey, Troy Fiers, La Vonne Anderson, Jean Latham, Donna Dummer, Janet Strebe, and the friends and family of Gary Johnson and Mae Schultz.



NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

July 16—Mission Trip Youth Commissioning

On Sunday, July 16, we will commission our youth and chaperones as they prepare to leave on their mission trip to Flathead Bible Camp in Montana. Please plan to attend this special service.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IN HOLMEN!

July 17th—July 20th

Sugar Creek Bible Day Camp is coming to us! We are joining with Holmen Lutheran and Journey for VBS this year. Sugar Creek staff will come and host Bible Day Camp! It will be held at Holmen Lutheran July 17th – July 20th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm AND we will have surround care available to watch the kids before and after day camp from 7:00 – 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 – 4:30! This is an amazing opportunity for your children. We are accepting donations to offset the cost of this special event. Register online at journeyluth.org and contact Jenessa Hill with any questions – 507-313-3391.

DRIVE TO 500: COVERINGS OF CARE - 2017 SYNOD ASSEMBLY PROJECT

Thank you for your support of this Reformation year project! How did we do?

- 179 mission quilts and 125 fleece blankets sent to Lutheran World Relief
- 154 prayer shawls and baby quilts delivered to New Horizons

PLUS some congregations took items back to be shared in their own communities!

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Message from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

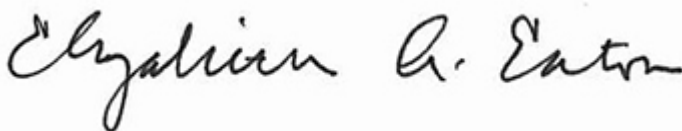
Dear friends in Christ,

Through God's grace we are made new each day to proclaim Jesus Christ — and to boldly participate in God's work. Our faith, Martin Luther said, is a "living, busy, active, mighty thing."

Through faith, we can do mighty things together; indeed, we are called by God to do so. During the first quarter-century of our existence as the ELCA, and through your weekly offerings and designated gifts, we have done much together. We have been blessed to lay a solid foundation of generosity and service. Your faithful, consistent and sustaining support for the mission we share has had great impact. And as we look forward to our next 25 years together, we have the chance to do even more.

It's not often that such an opportunity to make a real and lasting difference comes along — to start or renew a congregation, to identify and prepare leaders in our church and among our global companion churches, to feed people and equip them to break out of the cycle of hunger and poverty. That's what we can do together through this campaign. And we get to do this in Jesus' name. Thanks be to God!

In God's grace,



Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



TRAVELLING THIS SUMMER, OR EVER? IF YOU STAY IN A HOTEL, MOTEL, whatever, that provides toiletry samples....

Please bring some home. Individual soaps, shampoos, conditioner, lotion, anything *unopened* can be used at the Salvation Army shelter.

Staying more than one night? Tuck them away the first night and you will get more! This is a hugely appreciated donation to those who come for a safe overnight.

There will be a basket on the table outside the sanctuary. When it fills we will drop the contents off downtown. Thank you for sharing the luxury of a stay at the inn with those who just seek shelter.

DO YOU SHOP ON AMAZON? EARN DONATIONS FOR HALFWAY CREEK THROUGH AMAZONSMILE

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](https://www.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](https://www.smile.amazon.com) shopping link.

VISITOR FROM THE CZECH REPUBLIC – Our Newest Companion Synod

There will be an Open House at the La Crosse Area Synod office (2301 South Ave.) on Wednesday, July 5 from 2 - 3:30pm for Jan Dostál, a member of our new international companion synod, The Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren (ECCB). Jan is serving as an international camp counselor this summer with Lutheran Voyagers Ministry, near Cook, MN. Please drop by to warmly welcome him to the La Crosse Area Synod on July 5 anytime between 2 and 3:30. All are invited!!

Synod Office & Global Mission Committee



NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

On July 12, 2017, Holmen Lutheran is registered for an Explorers Day at Sugar Creek. They will be taking a school bus there and back. They have invited our congregation to join them. If you are interested please contact Matt Iverson at Holmen Lutheran at 608-526-3621.

Details:

Who: For all young people going into 1st – 5th grade. Parents/grandparents are welcome to come too.

What: A day to experience a variety of what Sugar Creek has to offer, games, Bible study, pony rides, swimming, worship and more.

Where: Sugar Creek Bible Camp

When: Wednesday, July 12 – Bus will leave from Holmen Lutheran Church at 7:45 am and return to Holmen Lutheran at 4pm

Cost: \$20 per child, parents/grandparents are free

VOLUNTEER NURSES or HEALTH PRACTITIONERS NEEDED

Sugar Creek Bible Camp is still in need of a few volunteer nurses, physicians, nurse practitioners, or physician's assistants for certain weeks of camp. Currently we have openings:

July 9-14 (Traditional week of summer camp)

Aug. 6-11 (Traditional week of summer camp)

As a volunteer nurse you may receive a free week of camp for one of your children or you may gift that free week to a child whom you choose to sponsor. Additionally, you may bring your spouse along and younger (independent) children to stay with you if you choose. Please contact Kati at Sugar Creek Bible Camp for further information: 608-734-3113 or kati@sgrcreek.org



WHY YOU NEED TO DRINK WATER

1. It boosts your mood: Turns out happiness can be found at the bottom of a glass of water. When researchers asked study participants to increase their water intake from 5 to 10 cups per day, subjects reported feeling calmer and more satisfied with their life in about five days.
2. You may heal faster: If you cut yourself, treat the wound and then sip two cups of water. Research show dehydration can impair the recovery process, but drinking water improves micro vascular circulation in your skin-important for healing- in just 30 minutes.
3. It can lower your odds of a stroke: A Johns Hopkins Hospital study of people you'd suffered strokes found that 44% were dehydrated. Dehydration may cause your blood to thicken and have a harder time passing through blood vessels. Furthermore, the more hydrated these stroke patients were the better their recovery.
4. There's a reason to drink water during exercise: Having water before, during and after exercise can prevent problems like heat stroke and painful muscle cramps, according to the American College of Sports Medicine.
5. It can quiet a headache: The next time your forehead starts pounding slowly drink 1 to 6 cups of water. If you're experiencing a migraine triggered by water deprivation, you could be pain-free in as little as half an hour.
6. You'll be a better driver: Not drinking enough water before a long car ride may cause you to make more mistakes. We get it: You don't want to stop to pee. But you may become dehydrated enough to impair your driving. Sip around 2 cups of water before departing and have another 7 ounces every hour you're on the road.
- .7. It increase your brainpower: Even mild dehydration can suppress blood vessels in your brain. The result: short-term memory problems, poor attention and slow reaction times. Refilling your water bottle might not get you a bonus, but it'll help you stay sharper.

Coffee, tea, carbonated or energy drinks do not replace a plain glass of water.

AED ... AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR



HCLC is hoping to purchase and install an AED (Automated External Defibrillator). If someone experiences sudden cardiac death, the shorter the time until defibrillation, the greater the chance the person will survive. This treatment can be delivered and CPR started before EMS arrives. AEDs are commonly found where groups of people gather.

Please consider donating to this great project! Direct your donation to "AED Support Fund". THANKS!!!

FROM YOUR STEWARDSHIP TEAM

"Stewardship begins at creation, where God first comes down to us. In the first chapter of Genesis, God forms humankind in God's own image and commands them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." (Genesis 1:28). A steward is someone who cares for someone else's property. From the beginning, humanity is not an owner; but a steward of what God has created. We are first receivers, not givers. We belong to God and all that we have belongs to God. We are bearers of God's love, grace and gospel. Stewardship begins with God coming down to us in love and sharing some of what is God's with us. We are a church that belongs to Christ, and there is a place for all here."



REPORT FROM 2017 SYNOD DELEGATES JIMMIE ANN AND DAVID GATES

The 2017 Synod assembly entitled Re-forming God's Peoples was a weekend filled with praise not only to God but also to the many people doing God's work around the world. This was the first synod assembly that we attended and it was a very rewarding experience. Friday night kicked off with a worship service where we were introduced to the assembly musician Dave Adams who was amazing throughout the entire weekend and we also heard from Beth Lewis about the use of technology in the church. This was a very good presentation on the use of technology to put our best foot forward to attract people to our church and our mission. We also sang a lot and loud. Saturday was a marathon day, however the content was worth the effort. Highlights from this day for me were the opening devotional reflection by Twyla Sandvick from Middle Coon Valley Lutheran Church about diversity in the church. Twyla is a native of Belize and gave a great insight into the current experience she has had in the ELCA. Later Saturday there was an interesting talk from none other than Martin Luther himself (actually Pastor John Ashland) dressed as Martin Luther which gave a brief account of the actual history of Martin Luther and the Reformation. Another standout presentation came from Mikka McCracken Director for planning and engagement ELCA world hunger. Mikka, another engaging speaker told of all the work the world hunger program is doing all over the world and how we are actually making a difference with all we do.

After lunch we broke off and were given the opportunity to attend small workshops of our choosing. We attended Mikka's workshop on world hunger and another one put on by The Chicken Coop Church a small mission based group that actually turned a chicken coop into their worship space. These folks were from all walks of life but had found each other and a common bond in Christ and are doing great work with feeding people in need and giving lots of hugs. Their message was one of inclusion no matter who you are what you've done or where you've been, a message that was really nice to hear. We ended Saturday with a meal in recognition for the fine work of Rev. David Larson president and ceo of Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. David was my favorite speaker. He had the whole audience in the palm of his hand as he told stories and jokes and the troubles of human trafficking and the work the Lutheran church is doing to help end that problem. It was eye opening when he said the federal government comes to us Lutherans when they can't get things done because we can. Sunday was a short day: we took care of the synod business with

After the business was taken care of we all worshipped together to close out the day. I will say that I was actually feeling a little sorry for myself going into the weekend because the sun was shining and I have a new motorcycle that was calling my name, but I can honestly say I am glad I took the time to attend all the synod had to offer. I encourage all of you who haven't had this experience to attend when given the chance. You won't be disappointed.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT BETHANY RIVERSIDE

Bethany Riverside is seeking volunteers to function as a "Volunteer Front Lobby Greater." Bethany Riverside is a 123 bed nursing home facility in La Crosse, WI, with many visitors coming and going throughout the day. The right candidates for this volunteer position must enjoy meeting new people, always have a smile on their face, and be able to provide good verbal directions to locations within the facility. They are looking for multiple volunteers to fill positions Monday–Friday, from 10am-12:30pm, and 12:30pm-3pm. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact April Crowder, Direction of Recreation Therapy and Volunteer Services, by calling 608-406-3926 or by emailing at amcrowde@gundersenhealth.org

2017 SUICIDE PREVENTION SUMMIT – RAISING AWARENESS & HOPE IN THE COMMUNITY

La Crosse Area Suicide Prevention Initiative

Awareness Event – Tuesday, September 19, 2017 6:00 – 7:30 P.M. – Riverside Park
(Free Event)

Summit – Wednesday, September 20, 2017 – 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. – Radisson Hotel

For more information go to www.uwlax.edu/sps Call 608-785-6500 or 866-895-9233.

Email: conted@uwlax.edu

**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 pm. 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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