



CURRENTS

MARCH 2024

Reach Out , Share Christ with All

FROM PASTOR CHRIS

The journey from Lent to Easter embrace and encourage a season of self-examination that leads to new life. In Lent we focus on some of the tensest moments of Jesus' teaching and life. As he fights with the Pharisees, as he tries desperately to get his disciples to understand that he is going to die, as he points us toward the cross that he was sent to bear, we are called to look deeply at ourselves. How do we understand the crucifixion that leads to resurrection in our own life? Do we follow as closely to Jesus' way and teaching as God is calling us to?

The word Jesus and his disciples used to talk about that examination and commitment to following Jesus was "change."

Change. The word itself can conjure up a range of emotions: excitement, anxiety, trepidation, or even fear. As Christians, we continuously wrestle with the concept of a life transformed, a journey from the "old self" to the "new self". But that doesn't mean change is easy.

Jesus knew that his death would lead to new life. And still he struggled, he cried out, and he prayed that the cup would pass from him.

In our own lives, embracing change can be daunting. We may cling to familiar routines, relationships, or beliefs, fearing the unknown. However, through faith in God, we can find the courage to step outside our comfort zones and embrace the

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potential for growth.

At HCLC we are engaging in a year of examination as we think about where God is calling us in a next chapter of being church together. At our annual meeting this year's Vision Board was charged with the task of researching and beginning conversations that could lead to a new structure of ministry. They will be looking at what it would mean to share ministry with other congregations. Many congregations in our synod are already, and many currently are looking at becoming, multi-point parishes – that is, churches that share a pastor, at the least, and potentially also other mission goals or ministry staff. Might this be a direction God would lead us toward for not just sustainability, but a bold new way of being church together for the sake of our communities?

But change is difficult. Our Lent and Easter journey asks us the question: how often do we truly embrace the changes that lead us to this new life?

Life is rarely static. We encounter new challenges, opportunities, and experiences that shape our journeys. As Christians, we are called to navigate these changes with faith and open hearts, for they can often be doorways to a deeper understanding of ourselves and our connection to God.

There will be times throughout the year where we all will come together to hear updates, ask questions, lament the uncomfortableness of change, and dream toward what God has in store for us. Additionally, you are always welcome to find Pastor or any Vision Board members for conversation – we actually want to hear from you more than you probably think.

As we pray, examine, explore, and dream toward where God is leading us, let us consider that Jesus' path from death to new life was not easy. Not for him, and not for those following him. But that journey was the most life-giving one we know. And we can always remember that following Jesus, however difficult, will always have abundant new life at the other end.

-Pastor Chris

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2024 ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 4, 2024

Thank you to everyone who attended the annual meeting. We had excellent representation from the congregation.

-After a review of last year's expenses and income, we approved a budget that does not provide staff wage increases and keeps Pastor at the 6th year synod compensation guideline. He is entering his seven year of ministry.

-We reviewed the repairs that are needed on the church.

-We reviewed the income and expense of the parsonage. There was only a one month gap between tenants this past year. New in 2023 is that we are paying property tax on the parsonage.

-We discussed possible ways of closing our financial gap this coming year and into the future. Some ideas discussed include: capital campaign for repairs and to pay off mortgage, using memorial funds to get started on repairs and/or selling the parsonage. We decided to explore a shared ministry model, in which we share a pastor with another congregation.

Welcome new Vision Board members: Bette Pedretti, Nancy Holley, Nicole Stumlin and Carrie Payne. Thank you to outgoing members: Gaye Johnson, Mike Martin and Diane Jostad.

If anyone is interested in attending the Synod Assembly in June, please contact a VB member.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Noel, VB Secretary

NEXT VISION BOARD MEETING MARCH 7

2024 VISION BOARD

Co-Presidents

Patti Happel
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Members

Nancy Holley
 5445nanh@gmail.com
 608-526-3418

Please contact the vision board with any input you may have. Vision Board meetings are scheduled for the second Thursday of each month.

Your giving helps with our mission - <i>Reaching Out to Share Christ with All</i>				
January	Actual	Budget	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget
General Fund	12,529.85	20,015.00	12,529.85	20,015.00
Expense	17,950.80	20,015.00	17,950.80	20,015.00
Debt Reduction	285.00		285.00	

Giving at HCLC has been made even easier. You can now go directly to Paypal and search for Halfway Creek Lutheran church. You may also click or scan the QR code! Thank you for helping us further our mission.



Noisy offering in February raised \$197.65 for Holmen’s Hope! Thanks for your generosity. In March we’ll be collecting for Lutheran World Relief Hurricane Kits.

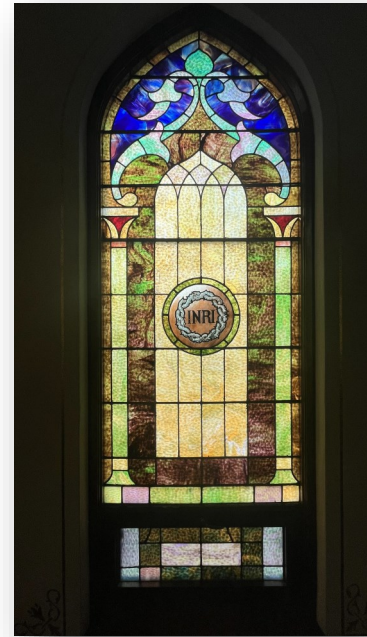
MAINTAINING THE LEGACY

Our stained-glass windows tell the story of God's love with beautiful icons of our faith, and memorialize some of our earliest leaders of the congregation.

Over the years, the areas around these windows have become worn down and are in need of repair.

This is your opportunity to continue the legacy of these windows by contributing to their repair.

By choosing to help repair a window, you are contributing to the preservation of our legacy of faith by keeping our building in good condition.

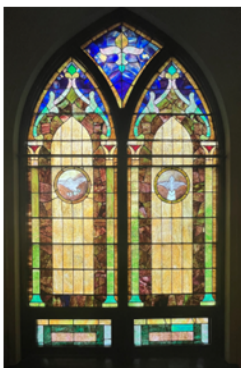


Thank you for your help!

Please use the form below when donating to this project.



Windows Project 2024 Maintaining the Legacy



You can "adopt" a window for \$1,000 or support the maintenance for \$100. (Any gift is greatly appreciated; these are just suggestions).

- I will adopt a window! Enclosed is my \$1,000 contribution*.
- I am supporting the project with a gift* of \$_____.

Name _____

**All contributions will be designated to repairs as described in our 2024 building repair campaign.*

Super Bowl Pizza Fundraiser

The Pizza fundraiser was a HUGE success. Halfway Creek Lutheran Church sold 160 pizzas (10 more than Journey!), and since we surpassed 150 pizzas we got to “Pie the Pastor” on February 25th after worship. Check out the pictures below.

Thanks Pastor for being a great sport!!



Making over 300 pizzas and still smiling!



Pastor gets a 'pie' in the face! Rich might be more excited than the kids!



LENT 2024

Wednesday nights will begin at 5:45 p.m. with a meal provided by congregation members and served by the Confirmation Students. There will be a free will offering for the meal and money will go towards the youth account and Youth Gathering trip.

Worship will begin at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday nights with reflection on the book "24 Hours that Changed the World" by Adam Hamilton.

Sundays during Lent - Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Wednesdays, Feb 21 - March 20 - Dinner at 5:45 p.m.; Worship at 6:30 p.m. Confirmation small groups will meet at 7:00-7:15 p.m.

HOLY WEEK MARCH 28-31, 2024

All are welcome at worship!

Maundy Thursday: 6:30 PM

Good Friday: 7:00 PM

 Noon: Crosswalk—meet at Halfway Creek bandshell

 1 PM: Community Worship at Holmen Lutheran

Easter Sunday: 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM



Christ is risen!

*May your Easter be filled with His blessings
and the joy of new life.*

HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH CEMETERY ASSOCIATION



The Halfway Creek Lutheran Church Cemetery Association met for their annual meeting on Sunday, February 4 following the church annual meeting. Thank yous were extended to Mark Witte, Dan Brudahl, Hannah Scholze, and Ed and Ruth Scholze for assisting the cemetery association with moving forward without our dear friend Raymond Lee.

Hannah spoke on gathering info about the new section from ledgers and maps. She shared a map identifying current lots (sold and unsold) for the new section. Additional mapping for the other sections of the cemetery will occur throughout the coming months. Dan Brudahl has the map if you are interested in buying a lot. His phone number is 608-526-

6950. The gravesite information will be added into a computer program to have easy access going forward. The cemetery has about 56 lots left to sell in the upper, new section. The original cemetery maps will be digitally scanned.

Discussion occurred over the possibility of amending the constitution to allow cemetery association members who are not members of the church to serve as trustees. This will be brought to a special meeting in about 6 months. Other policies will be drafted and brought to the cemetery association members in the future regarding green burials, cremations on already used lots, and pre-paid burials.

Ruth Scholze was elected to fill a one-term vacancy as President, and Mark Witte was elected to continue as Secretary for a three-year term.

Additionally, we'd like to extend a thank you to Miriam Heyer for her past and continued work sharing cemetery information to the monthly church newsletters.

Please contact any cemetery trustee with any questions or concerns.

Dan Brudahl, 608-526-6950

Mark Witte, 608-317-0183

Ruth Scholze, 608-797-9391

COMMUNION MILESTONE

Communion milestone is scheduled in March! There are two important lessons to complete on March 10 with the Communion celebration at worship on March 17. If you have a family member that would like to participate that may not already be in Sunday School, just let Pastor Chris know or contact the office. All are welcome to participate as there is no age requirement. We welcome you to this wonderful milestone.

Regular **Sunday School** lessons are scheduled for March 3 and 17. We'll have an Easter Egg hunt during lesson time on March 24! Bring your friends! The kids will sing Easter morning at the 10:30 a.m. service and not on 3/17 as stated on the calendar.

YOUTH GATHERING UPDATE

Wednesdays during Lent, the youth will be helping to serve dinner and clean up afterwards. Congregation members will be providing the meal each week, and we'll have a free will offering for the youth and youth gathering participants.

Thanks to everyone who has been supporting us so far. We'll have more fundraisers this coming spring (Chicken-Q, Brat Barn, Meat sale, and more!).

Youth gathering meetings are scheduled for 9:30 a.m.: 4/14; 5/19.

FROM OUR NEIGHBORS



Our neighbor, Lisa, sent us this picture on a very cold January morning and commented, "Our view Saturday from our warm living room..... Beautiful!" Thank you, Lisa, for sharing this picture on our Facebook page. It is indeed beautiful.
Thanks be to God!!



MARCH BIRTHDAYS



If your birthday is missing, please notify the office.

2	13	20	27
Graham Kinsman	Gaye Johnson	Jesse Oines	Ivy Severson
3	Michael Martin	22	29
John Fredrickson	Garrett Pederson	Marc Jandt	Nollan Gander
Kynzie Severson	Tricia Syverson	23	Nic Hill
Lynn Wegner	15	Kathy Christensen	Ruth Scholze
4	Braxton Lohrentz	Jeremy Cook	30
Wendy McCoy	17	Connor Lee	John Daily
6	Lyza Yahnke	24	Stella Pederson
Timothy Severson	18	Linda Pralle	31
11	James Dokkebakken	26	Daniel Brudahl
Robert Nelson	Collin Noel	Katrina Bringe	Reid Stumlin
Sydney Page			



We pray for ... the family of Judy Campbell, the family of Mike Nedoba, Marjorie Lee, Jean Latham, Ed Scholze, Bob Loper, Joan Vaughn, Bridget Ferk, Thelma Severson, Lisa Herrera Evans, Katie Wier, Phoebe Kitzke, Gayle Kuespert, Beulah Sanders, Cary Heyer, Eric Erdman, Dawson Reed, Jenny Lee, Mary Dokkebakken, Karla Johnson, Alice Fonfara, Marie Jezova, Coats family

QUILTERS

Quilters gather Tuesdays through the end of March! Interested in helping? Meet us at church!

BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Study group will meet on Thursday, March 21 at 9:30 a.m.

SERVING AND WORSHIP

		SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	OFFERING COUNTERS
MAR 3	8:30	Mike Martin	Carrie Nicole	Rhonda Sonja
	10:30			
MAR 10	8:30	Stan Schwier	Bette P	
	10:30			Bette P Susan J
MAR 17	8:30	Archie	Nancy H.	
	10:30			Jodi Eide
MAR 24	8:30	David Chase	Barb H Bette P	
Palm Sunday	10:30			Diane Mike
MAR 31	8:30	Archie	Kari	Mike
Easter	10:30	Mike		

Volunteer to help at Worship

Use [Sign-up Genius](#) button on the website or E-News; call the office or email assistant@halfwaycreek.org.

Giftng your time is important to help meet the needs of this congregation at each service.

Thank you so much for sharing your time and talents!

Thank you!

PowerPoint and AV-tech operators are so important to our worship volunteer team! We are looking for more people to learn how to help in this area! Sign-up in the office.



Halfway Creek Lutheran Church
608-526-3701
www.halfwaycreek.org

WORSHIP

8:30 and 10:30 a.m.
Education Hour 9:30 a.m.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—By Appointment

Tuesday—9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Wednesday—9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Thursday—9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Friday—Closed

Saturday—Closed

Sunday—Worship

PASTORAL CARE

If the need arises for Pastoral Care,
please contact Pastor Chris at
608-526-3701 or 608-397-1578.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Find us on Facebook, Instagram,
YouTube and our website

@halfwaycreeklutheranchurchholmen
#halfwaycreeklutheranchurch
#reachoutsharechristwithall

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