



## **CURRENTS**

APRIL 2024

### ***Reach Out , Share Christ with All***

#### **FROM PASTOR CHRIS**

“And they lived happily ever after.” “And they rode off into the sunset.” “The end.”

These are all great ways of ending stories, and all ways that Mark chose not to end his gospel. If you take what many believe the original ending of Mark’s gospel at 16:8, the story stops abruptly and seems unfinished.

The women go to the tomb of Jesus and find that nothing is like they expected. The tomb is empty! When they get there, the large stone sealing the tomb is already rolled away. As they peek inside, they look to the right and see, sitting there, a young man clothed in white. “You’re looking for Jesus of Nazareth,” he says. “He is not here, he has been raised!”

The women respond in terror and amazement. Mary, Mary, and Salome go out from the tomb, fleeing! “And they did not tell anyone anything because they were afraid.” (*The end.*)

Wait, what is that?! Mark can’t end there. This is big news and the world, or at least Jesus’ disciples, need to be told about this! And that is precisely the point. The story ends unfinished. And now it’s our story to tell!

We have heard the good news and will we, then, be scared and keep it untold? No, we must live it, tell it, be transformed by it as we, ourselves go forward. Jesus lives! And we will see him as we seek to live his way, work to bring his kingdom into the lives of those around us, and work to bring his kingdom into our own hearts.

The story cannot end at the tomb. And it does not! We know and are certain, because of Jesus – because of his life and ministry, because of his extreme suffering, because of his

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victory over death and his resurrection – that there is nowhere we can go, no experience we can face, where Jesus is not with us.

When our lives take us where Jesus trod – with the sick, the ones needing forgiveness, the ones needing to be fed – even in terrible suffering unto death, we know that Jesus chooses to walk with us. And where Jesus goes, no matter what is faced in those places, new life will always come. God will always bring us, with Jesus, to new and abundant life. The good news cannot go unshared.

“And they did not tell anyone anything because they were afraid.” For us, the story doesn't end there. That “ending” is a call to action. We are the ones who continue the narrative, spreading the message of Christ's love and embodying his teachings in our daily lives.

You see it in all the ways this congregation is alive and active in the community: As we send our youth to the Gathering this summer, as we stock the food cupboard in town, bring food to the salvation army, feed kids through Holmen's Hope backpack project, visit people in the nursing homes, bring communion to our members at home, when we tell little ones “you're welcome

here,” when our work or volunteering brings more justice, more equity, more love into the world – you see it. When life-giving relationships are cultivated and created, you see us embodying Christ in our daily lives.

The tomb is empty, and the story is far from over. It's our turn to write the next chapter, carrying the message of Jesus' love and resurrection into the world. With Jesus walking beside us, we can face any challenge and bring new life to those around us. As the story continues in your own life and in our life together, what amazing chapters await?

-Pastor Chris

## **PARKING LOT LIGHTS**

Thanks to a generous donation, we were able to fix our parking lot lights! The new lights are bright and illuminate the lower



and upper parking lot areas. The lights add a level of security and safety especially for people in our building for evening activities and meetings,

## 2024 VISION BOARD

### Co-Presidents

Patti Happel  
patiszoo@yahoo.com  
608-317-9525

Amy Noel  
noelprairie@icloud.com  
608-386-0299

Bette Pedretti  
bettepedretti@yahoo.com  
608-526-3241

Kari Washburn  
kari.washburn@yahoo.com  
608-790-7487

### Treasurer

Carrie Payne  
payne.carrie@hotmail.com  
608-790-4401

Nicole Stumlin  
bigfarmer053@yahoo.com  
608-769-3642

### Co-Secretaries

Andrea Baxter  
baxtera42@gmail.com  
608-738-3896

### Members

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

*Please contact the vision board with any input you may have.*

Your giving helps with our mission -  
*Reaching Out to Share Christ with All*

<b>February</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
Offering	\$14,996.75	\$25,462.75
Expenses	\$18,525.07	\$36,290.69
<b>Difference</b>	<b>-3,528.32</b>	<b>-\$10,827.94</b>

**Noisy offering:** We raised money for LWR Hurricane Relief Kits during March. As of 3/24 we collected \$193.31! Watch the E-News for the total after Easter.

In April our focus will be on the ELCA Youth Gathering participants!! Let's help them get to New Orleans in July!

**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.



**HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH  
VISION BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
March 7, 2024**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pastor Chris Sesvold, Patti Happel, Amy Noel, Carrie Payne, Andrea Baxter, Bette Pedretti, Nancy Holley

Member Absent: Nicole Stumlin and Kari Washburn

Call to order @ 6:01PM

Devotion: Watched a short video that challenges us to think about how we welcome and do we really welcome “all”!?!?

Approval of Agenda: Motion made and 2nd to approve revised agenda

Welcome to new members: Bette, Nancy, Carrie and Nicole. Amy not a review of the constitution.

**Actions since last meeting:**

Motion made and seconded to approve January 11, 2024 VB meeting minutes. Approved January 15, 2024.

Motion made and seconded to replace stove in parsonage. Approved February 13, 2024.

Motion made and seconded that Pastor’s declared housing allowance remain the same as 2023 at \$42806. Approved February 8, 2024.

VB Meeting Minutes from February 4, 2024

Call to order following HCLC Annual Cemetery Meeting.

Purpose: To welcome newly elected VB members (Bette, Nancy, Carrie and Nicole) and to elect officers for the next year.

Motion made and seconded to elect Patti Happel as president. Approved

Motion made and seconded to elect Carrie Payne as treasurer. Approved.

Kari Washburn will remain as vice president.

Amy Noel will remain as secretary. Andrea Baxter will be the backup.

Next meeting will be March 7, 2024 at 6PM.

Thank you to past VB members, Gaye Johnson, Mike Martin and Diane Jostad! Meeting adjourned.

Motion made and seconded to approve minutes of February 4, 2023 VB meeting. Approved

**Pastor’s Report received**

Successful pizza fundraiser!! Thank you HCLC for buying more pizzas than Journey.

Beginning of LENT - Services, weekly suppers and reflections from the book and video “24 Hours That Change the World” by Adam Hamilton.

Started conversations with Synod Office on our process of discerning possible ministry changes at HCLC for 2025.

**Financial Report received**

Recommendation to pay back the money we borrow from Dedicated Funds, to meet expenses, quarterly by taking money out Thrivent Funds.

So far in 2024 (January and February), we have had to use \$5730.86 in other financial sources (Thrivent and borrowing from Dedicated Funds).

**Noisy Offering**

March: LWR Hurricane Kits (This will support the National Youth Gathering Service Project).

April: Youth going to National Youth Gathering

May: TBD

**Worship and Liturgy:** VB requests that this team bring forward a recommendation for a summer schedule to our April VB meeting.

**Property Team:**

After conversation with our tenants in the parsonage, the motion was made and seconded to keep the rent at \$1850 with regular evaluation of proper lawn care. Approved.

In addition to replacing the stove, work was done to repair the shower at the parsonage.

Mike Martin has offered to mow lawn for another year.

A generous donor will cover the costs of repairs on parking lot lights.

Building Repairs:

Appeal to repair the windows is off to a good start. A generous donor has offered to match up to \$13,500.

Congregational Meeting scheduled April 14, 2024 at 10AM. Motion for review: **“Approve a contract with Krause Construction for repair work on the Church.”**

The question has come up on whether we will acknowledge individuals for contributions to the window project. **Recommendation:** We will continue as we have and do not plan to publicly and/or individually list members who have given gifts to the church.

**Old Business:**

Followup on congregant email of concern: **Recommendation** - Find ways for kids to participate in services and feel welcome and build relationships with parents. Several ideas discussed.

Synod Assembly - Still need to find two representatives for the June 7th evening and all day on June 8th event at Three Bears Lodge in Warrens. Caucus meeting is coming up on April 14th to begin preparation for those attending. Sunday worship will again be at Riverside Park on June 9th.

**New Business:**

Exploring a Shared Ministry model next step: In followup to Pastor’s meeting with the Synod, the Executive Committee (Pastor, Patti and Kari) will meet to start to establish a plan of how to move forward.

Two upcoming weddings: August 2024 and sometime in 2025.

Began conversation on how we might begin the process of becoming a “Reconciling In Christ” Congregation and further defining the “all” of our mission statement.

Closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36.

**Next Meeting: APRIL 4th at 6PM.**

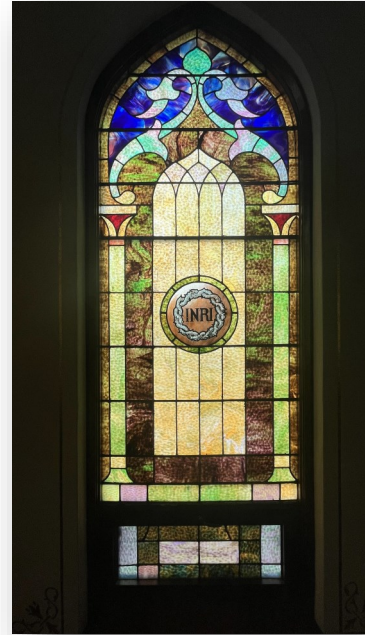
## MAINTAINING THE LEGACY

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.

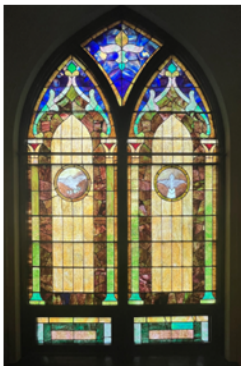


*We are nearing our goal! Thank you for your generosity. There is still time to donate.*

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.*

## **BUILDING REPAIR PROJECT—UPDATE**

Not only have people been donating to the Windows Project, but also to the whole repair project we outlined last fall. This project consists of 5 Priority items summarized here:

- 1) Brick repair on two pilasters on southeast corner. Estimated COST: \$2,750
- 2) Scrape, repair, caulk and paint windows on church. Estimated COST: \$10,250
- 3) Clean, dampen and Tuck point with mortar. Cut out and re-caulk all Masonry joints that are currently caulked on brick. Estimated COST: \$14,375
- 4) Waterproof ENTIRE church with two coats of clear base sealant. Estimated COST: \$10,240
- 5) Power Wash Church/Paint NE side and replace door (On hold)

The total needed to complete 1-4 is \$37,627. So far we have collected **\$31,505** which includes a generous matching funds donation that is being used to match funds collected for items 1 & 2 (Window Project—Maintaining the Legacy). If we can raise the remaining **\$6,627**, the match will be complete the project will be fully funded!

Thank you to everyone for generously donating to the repairs of our church building!

## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOTICE**

We will meet as a congregation on April 14 at 10 a.m. to vote on the following Vision Board motion:

“Approve a contract with Krause Construction for repair work on the Church.”

Please attend this meeting if you are available. Thank you.

## HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH CEMETERY NEWS



It's the Easter season, John 11:25 "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live." The Halfway Creek Lutheran Church Cemetery Association Trustees are here to answer any questions or concerns you might have.

Dan Brudahl, 608-526-6950

Mark Witte, 608-317-0183

Ruth Scholze, 608-797-9391

Here is a fun idea to try at home: <https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/84289/resurrection-rolls/>

Resurrection rolls are a great Easter recipe that you can make with the kids. Cinnamon-coated marshmallows are wrapped in dough, then baked. When you break them open, they are empty inside, representing Jesus's tomb on Easter morning.

## QUILTERS

The Quilters group had another successful year as they completed 28 quilts! A special thank you to Amy Noel for making quilt tops with fabric donated by Beulah Sanders. Thank you to the group for gathering and sharing your time and talents for an important ministry. Many of the quilts will be donated. The group has decided to auction a quilt at the Rummage Sale with proceeds supporting the Youth Gathering trip this summer! Stop by and place a bid on April 5th or 6th!





## COMMUNION MILESTONE



Congratulations Bristol Pralle, Joy Jandt and Noel Jandt for completing your Communion Milestone lessons and receiving Holy Communion at the Lord's Table on Sunday, March 17. *We thank God for you. We pray that you will find joy and strength in this meal, until we feast forever at God's heavenly banquet.*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

What a great year of Sunday School we had with weekly lessons, Milestone lessons and the addition of music and singing for worship once a month! Thanks to all the students, families, teachers, music leaders and Pastor Chris! We appreciate all that you do for HCLC and our kids! Lessons will continue this month on April 7 and 14. Our last day of Sunday School is April 21st! We'll gather for the Apostles' Creed Milestone lesson at 9:30 a.m. and students will sing at the 10:30 a.m. service.

Early in April we'll start planning for next year. If you want to share any thoughts or ideas for Sunday School 2024-25, please contact the office or Pastor Chris.

Thanks again for a great year of learning, singing and worshipping!

## CONFIRMATION

**Confirmation Sunday** is approaching quickly and we just wanted to make sure you had some details. Confirmation students will read their faith statements at BOTH services. The Confirmands will receive the Rite of Confirmation at the 10:30 a.m. service. So invite your family and friends to join you then!!

**Sunday, April 28, 2024**

8:30 a.m. Worship & Faith Statements

9:30 a.m. Treats between services in honor of the Confirmands

10:30 a.m. Rite of Confirmation & Faith Statements



## YOUTH GATHERING UPDATE

We so appreciate all your support during the Lenten meals this year. From providing food to your free will offerings, we were able to collect \$522.00 to put toward our trip to New Orleans. Our fundraising continues with a Bake Sale at our church rummage sale! If you'd like to help by making cookies, bars or cupcakes for us to sell, please bring them to church on Thursday, April 4 between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Just place them on the tables inside the second set of doors. Or contact Bette Pedretti at 608-526-3241 to set up at time to drop them off.

Our next **Youth gathering meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on April 14th.**

*"We are created to be disciples, to be sent out into the world to love our neighbor just as we are loved by God"*

## CALLING ALL GRADUATING SENIORS

HCLC seniors graduating from High School and College are invited to Senior Recognition Sunday on May 5th at 8:30 a.m. and/or 10:30 a.m. Please [email](#) the office with your graduation photo and a quick update on your plans after school!

## RUMMAGE SALE

Check out the Halfway Creek Lutheran Church Rummage Sale!

This sale is an antiquing dream!! We emptied our church basement kitchen!! Many items are circa 1950s and priced to sell!

Vintage bowls, serving dishes, punch bowl, multiple coffee carafes, Ikea coffee mugs, cream/sugar sets, stock pots, kitchen utensils, electric roasters, food processors, white Correlle plates and bowls, silverware, tablecloths, books, hymnals, banners, choir robes, kids' crafts, toys and more!

We'll have a silent auction for a quilt along with a beautifully embroidered t-shirt and tote. The Youth are hosting a bake sale both days with proceeds going towards the ELCA Youth Gathering in July.

The Sale is indoors April 5 and 6. Cash only.



The graphic features a central illustration of a church with a steeple and a cross. To the right of the church are three balloons in red, yellow, and green. Below the church are several boxes and items representing different categories: 'Books', 'Toys', and 'Dishes'. The text 'Church Rummage Sale' is prominently displayed in the center, with 'Church' in a red, cursive font and 'Rummage Sale' in a large, black, outlined font.

**Halfway Creek Lutheran Church**  
 W6016 County Hwy W, Holmen WI

**Friday, April 5**  
 8 AM—4 PM

**Saturday, April 6**  
 8 AM—1 PM

*Bake sale on Friday and Saturday to support  
 the teens attending the Youth Gathering!*

**AROUND OUR AREA**

**M** Galesville MomCo

# THRIFT SALE

Supports Our Community

**Saturday, April 6th**  
7 am - 2 pm

Location: **Zion Lutheran Church**  
20335 W. Gale Ave. Galesville, WI

Item Donations Accepted  
See Website for Details  
ZionGale.com/GalesvilleMomCo.html




# SPRING FEVER CRAFT SHOW

Sunday, April 7th  
9:00-3:00

Town of Holland Hall  
207937 Cty Rd MH Holmen, WI

Large variety of vendors

**ONALASKA, WI**

**3RD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH**

**4:30 PM - 6:00 PM**

**JOURNEY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
2703 SAND LAKE ROAD  
ONALASKA, WI



**2024 DATES**

MARCH 20	JUNE 19	AUGUST 21	OCTOBER 16
APRIL 17	JULY 17	SEPTEMBER 18	NOVEMBER 20
MAY 15			DECEMBER 18

**\$25 Cash Donation**

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND!

You Will Receive an Abundance of Grocery Items

NO Income or Residency Requirements

Need Additional Information?  
Call (651) 674-0009  
[www.rubyspantry.org](http://www.rubyspantry.org)

 RUBY'S PANTRY



**Grace Institute**  
for Spiritual Formation  
— A community practicing contemplation, courage, and compassion —

Presents: **Glimpses of Grace**

A one day experience to sample offerings of a Grace Institute retreat for anyone interested in learning more.

**DATE:**  
April 26, 2024  
10:00am - 3:30pm CST

**ITINERARY:**  
Welcome  
Worship  
Overview of Grace Institute  
Covenant Group experience  
Closing / Benediction  
Lunch Included

**LOCATION:**  
Franciscan Spirituality Center  
920 Market Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

**COST:**  
\$35/ person

**HOW DO WE RAISE AWARENESS OF GOD'S GRACE IN OUR LIVES?**  
-contemplative prayer  
-worship  
-covenant group relationships  
-spiritual practices  
-silence

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND REGISTER UNDER "EVENTS" OR SCAN THE QR CODE:  
[www.graceformation.org](http://www.graceformation.org)  
[graceformation.org/events](http://graceformation.org/events)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: APRIL 19, 2024



## **SYNOD UPDATES**

You are invited to Synod Assembly June 7-9, 2024!

Join pastors, deacons and lay leaders from across the La Crosse Area Synod for our annual Assembly – as we meet to worship, enjoy fellowship, learn and vote on business including our budget and elected positions. Child care for ages 4 to 5th grade is available Friday & Saturday. Sunday Worship will take place at the bandstand in Riverside Park, La Crosse, WI at 10am with a picnic following.

The Assembly Venue has changed:



**ATTENTION  
PLEASE!**

**SYNOD ASSEMBLY VENUE CHANGE**

**New Location:  
First Lutheran Church - Onalaska**

Due to unforeseen circumstances with the original venue, we have moved the location of the upcoming Synod Assembly. All hotel guest room reservations at the Three Bears Resort will automatically be canceled and necessary refunds issued. We apologize for the change of plans.

**June 7-8, 2024**

*If viewing online, click on the image to register.*





## APRIL BIRTHDAYS



*If your birthday is missing, please notify the office.*

1	12	19	23
Nicole Barbour	Cohen Lee	Jennifer Kruckow	Savanna Britton
2			
Anika Sesvold	Kennedy Strangstalien	Wyatt Oines	Philip Johnson
3	14	21	Joanne Mihm
Noah Hanson	Alexa Lautenschlager	Kathi Hagel	Randy Tuquero
Gregory Temp	15	Chantel Temp	26
4	Kristi Johnson	22	Dawn Bandoli
Rachael Hauser	16	Gabriel Hansen	27
Trinity Horstman	Erica Daily	Allison Oines	Rebecca Hauser
6	Cora Klich	Ethan Oines	28
Rhonda Britton	17	Calvin Smith	Ryan Olson
Doug Gordon	Marcella McDonald		Cartyr Stumlin
Zach Johnson	18		29
Cassie Tremain-Tolvstad	Andrea Baxter		Audrey Bringe
			Lars Oines

## *With Sympathy*

In profound grief and hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we announce the death of Rod Sutherland. His funeral was at the Gathering Place in Onalaska on Monday, March 25. Rest eternal grant Rod, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon him.



*We pray for ... the family and friends of Rod Sutherland, 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*

## SERVING AND WORSHIP

		SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	OFFERING COUNTERS
<b>APR 7</b>	8:30	Mike Martin	Carrie Nicole	Rhonda Sonja
	10:30			
<b>APR 14</b>	8:30	Stan Schwier	Bette P	
	10:30			Bette P Susan J
<b>APR 21</b>	8:30	Archie	Nancy H.	
	10:30			Jodi Eide
<b>APR 28</b>	8:30	David Chase	Barb H Bette P	
	10:30			Diane 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](mailto: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!



*Christ is risen!*

*May your Easter season*

*be filled with His*

*blessings and the joy of*

*new life.*

Check out our Google Calendar now on the home page of our [website!](#)

Halfway Creek Lutheran Church  
608-526-3701  
[www.halfwaycreek.org](http://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

Halfway Creek Lutheran Church  
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Holmen, WI 54636