



CURRENTS

MAY 2024

Reach Out , Share Christ with All

FROM PASTOR CHRIS

What amazing chapters await?

I hope that you are so proud of what we can accomplish together: In only two months, the repair project that we only hoped would happen in 2-3 years is complete! You are generous, dedicated, and proud to share the good news of Jesus at Halfway Creek Lutheran Church. Thank you to everyone who prayed, took time to learn about the stories in our windows, and to those of you who gave to the project!

Last month in this newsletter I asked the question, “what amazing chapters await?” As the gospel of Mark came to a close, we saw through the narrator’s eyes that Jesus’ tomb was empty, and in no uncertain terms the story was handed over to us. We who are reading it or hearing it today, it is now our story to tell. We are the writers of the next chapter of Jesus’ love in the world today.

In April we wrote part of that chapter together. Our building is in fine repair, with the solid foundation that is you all: members, friends, supporters of Halfway Creek. We are committed to sharing Jesus’ love in and through this place! What amazing thing is God doing in and through us next?

At our annual meeting the Vision Board was given the task of researching what a different structure of ministry would look like for Halfway Creek so that we can be sustainable into the future. As we are able this summer to have conversations with congregations around us and synod staff, looking for ideas of sustainable solutions for future ministry, we will keep you informed. I ask you to keep praying, and keep talking with me and with the vision board about what you are feeling and thinking. God certainly has something in mind for us, and I know, because it is with Jesus and will be led by the Holy Spirit, that it is a path that is full of life – for us, for our community, and for the world.

Cont. on Page 2

May 2024 Currents

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Cont'd from page 1

We accomplished, because of God's gifts in all of you, an amazing thing with the building repair project! What will we do together next to support the sharing of Jesus' love through our ministry together at Halfway Creek?

Easter Blessings through our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ, to all of you this May!

-Pastor Chris

HOLMEN'S HOPE SUMMER PROGRAM NEEDS

HCLC is focusing on supporting the Holmen's Hope Summer Lunch program all during May. We reached out to Craig Coe, Executive Director, and he shared their needs. You may bring food items and Kwik Trip gift cards to HCLC and volunteer to help this summer by following the link below.

From Craig:

Here are the items that we can use for the Summer Lunch Program: **Creamy Peanut Butter, Jelly or Jam, Drink Boxes, Granola Bars, Snacks (fruit snacks, cookies, etc.)** We purchase the bread and bananas each day at Kwik Trip for freshness and cost, so if anyone would like to contribute a **KT gift card** that would be great. Please drop off gift cards in the HCLC office.

The program begins June 10th and will go through August 16th. Lunches are made Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at Coulee Life Church on Sand Lake Road @ 11:00 a.m. Delivery is in 4 different locations in the Holmen area at noon. Leftover sandwiches and bananas are taken to the Boys and Girls Club each day. Here is a link to the sign-up to make lunches and/or deliver:

<https://holmenshope.org/slp-signup>

Coulee Life Church members have volunteered to take care of making lunches and delivering them on Mondays all summer long. We are looking for volunteers for Wednesdays and Fridays. Thank you for helping!!

2024 VISION BOARD

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

Noisy offering: In April, we collected noisy offerings to support the teens going to the ELCA Youth Gathering. Thank you for your generosity. You gave a total of \$1457.58!! May's noisy offering will support Holmen's Hope Summer Lunch program!! Check out the article on page 2 of this newsletter for other ways to help.

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.



SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE



HCLC will be having one worship service at 9:00 a.m. from Sunday, May 26th through September 1st. Please note this change on your calendar!

Worship volunteers are needed at each service. Please prayerfully consider helping. Sign-up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0444A9AA22A3FC1-fall#/>

**HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH
VISION BOARD MEETING
April 9, 2024
6:00 p.m.**

Members: Patti Happel, Kari Washburn, Carrie Payne, Andrea Baxter, Bette Pedretti, Nancy Holley, Pastor Chris Sesvold

Absent: Amy Noel, Nicole Stumlin

Call to Order @ 6 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda: Nancy Holley made a motion to approve the agenda, Bette Pedretti 2nd, motion passed.

Action by VB since March meeting: None.

Pastor's Report received.

Financial Report received. Noisy offering for March was the LWR Hurricane Kits, April is for the youth going to the gathering and May will be for Holmen's Hope summer backpack program.

Worship & Liturgy – Nancy Holley made a motion that for the summer, Memorial Day thru Labor Day, we have one service at 9 a.m. Carrie Payne seconded, motion passed.

Property Team: Updates given on the building repairs and parking lot lights. Carrie Payne made a motion to use undesignated memorial fund for the difference amount owed on the parking lot lights. Bette Pedretti seconded, motion passed.

Old Business: Update was provided regarding a possible Shared ministry. Congregational meeting is to be held on April 14th regarding the needed approval of the building repairs. Synod Assembly is June 7-9 and has been moved to First Lutheran in Onalaska. The youth continue to fundraise, they have a meat bundle and upcoming brat barn.

New Business: Carrie Payne made a motion that we raise the rent for the Jazzercise group to \$300 starting June 1st. Bette Pedretti seconded, motion passed.

Closing Prayer

Adjourned @ 7:40.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 9th at 6 p.m.

FINANCIAL UPDATES

We have included financial information for the General Fund along with the amount in the Dedicated Fund as of MARCH 31.

	Total Offering*	Expenditures	Difference
January-24	\$10,466.00	\$16,888.24	-\$6,422.24
February-24	\$14,996.75	\$19,778.94	-\$4,782.19
March-24	\$16,901.55	\$18,997.07	-\$2,095.52
Running Totals	\$42,364.30	\$55,664.25	-\$13,299.95

*Total Offering includes - electronic, envelope, and loose offering
does not include rent income

Halfway Creek Dedicated Funds 3/31/2024

	<u>Balance</u>
Liturgy/Music*	\$1,498.83
WELCA	\$3,453.19
Undesignated Memorials	\$6,428.65
Keith Krause Memorial	\$3,154.80
Sabbatical Reserve	\$3,066.64
Bibles	\$500.00
Quilters	\$735.83
Windows	\$100.00
Building Repairs	\$14.77
Sunday School Children & Youth	\$77.91
Parsonage	\$263.86
Parsonage Security Deposit	\$1,000.00
Parsonage Property Taxes	\$959.95
Technology Fund	\$1,000.00
Income for Lift Rental	\$96.50
Legacy Building Project/Windows	\$29,475.00
Interest	\$84.82
Ending Balance	\$51,910.75

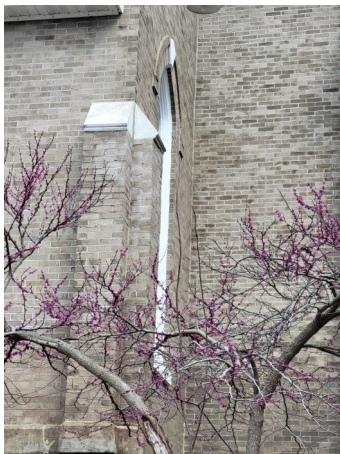
*\$628.81 remaining balance - designated for new microphones

WINDOWS AND BUILDING REPAIRS

Thank you for your prayers and financial contributions for maintaining the legacy and integrity of our building by repairing the windows, painting trim, fixing the brick work and waterproofing the building. Krause construction has completed the project and the repairs were done very well! We do GREAT things together!

Windows & Repairs Project - Progress

Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4	Priority 5
 <p>Brick repair on two pilasters on southeast corner. Estimated COST: \$2,780</p>	 <p>Scrape, repair, caulk and paint windows on church. Estimated COST: \$10,250</p>	 <p>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</p>	 <p>Waterproof ENTIRE church with two coats of clear base sealant. Estimated COST: \$10,240</p>	<p>Power Washing/Painting NE side Church: On Hold</p> <p>Replacing Door: Property Team</p>
<p>Total Cost: \$37,645 - Donations: \$37,645 - Completely Funded!! 4/16/2024</p>				



Here are just a couple pictures of the completed work!

The property team is working on the final part of this project.. More updates will be provided in the near future.

Thanks again everyone!

HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH CEMETERY NEWS



May is preservation month in the world of historians. We celebrate the preservation of historic places to help us understand our past. This is a photo of the original Halfway Creek Lutheran Church in the cemetery shortly before the fire in April 1912. One of the oldest graves identified is Johannes Oleson, who died in 1863. The Halfway Creek Lutheran Cemetery Association Trustees are here to answer any questions or concerns you might have. Please give us a call so we can honor you and your loved ones.

Dan Brudahl, 608-526-6950; Mark Witte, 608-317-0183; Ruth Scholze, 608-797-9391

IT'S MOWING SEASON



What a gift! A member saw the need and acted on it!! Now we own a new mower at HCLC! Mike generously offers his time to mow the grounds and this new mower will make his work here so much easier!



We are now accepting **gas money** donations for mowing this season! If you'd like to drop a little cash in the basket at church or send a check to HCLC, we all would appreciate the help!

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! We look forward to worshipping with the kids all summer long!! Please prayerfully consider helping at worship service once a month as a family.





CONFIRMATION



Halfway Creek Lutheran Church confirmed six 8th graders on Sunday, April 28. It was a beautiful service with moving faith statements from all of the confirmands: Olivia Nedoba, Ema Nedoba, Jillian Eide, Ruby Kinsman, Anna Holley and Coleton Lee. Their small group leader, Kristie Tweed, along with Pastor Chris, were with them the past three years of confirmation to guide them.

At the Rite of Confirmation, Lynn Wegner accompanied the service with vocals by John Daily. Thank you both for the beautiful music. The confirmands were especially enthusiastic for the sending song: *This Little Light of Mine*. Thank you to Bette for preparing the gowns and decorating the altar, to Diane and Rachael for the confirmation banner and to Gaye for providing food for the reception and fellowship. We also appreciate all the worship volunteers.

The confirmands were presented with a specially baked and decorated cookie from HWY 108 Cookies. Thanks to Jodi Anderson for picking up the order!

A special thank you to parents, grandparents, family and friends who have supported these

young people through their faith journey so far. Don't stop now! Keep bringing them to church, volunteering in the community, and Reaching Out to Share Christ with All. Faith is not a one-time experience. It is a life-long journey! If you missed Confirmation on Sunday, April 28 you can watch it here: <https://youtube.com/live/6DSJtmbmPV0?feature=share>

May God bless you all the days of your life.



CONFIRMATION— WHAT'S NEXT?

Confirmation classes 6th—8th will be meeting on Wednesday, May 8th at 6 PM. Bring your friends, a snack to share, games to play and some great ideas on what you would like to do as a group this summer: meet for coffee, volunteer to make lunches for Holmen's Hope Summer lunch program, volunteer at worship services, help a neighbor with yard work, have a board game night... the ideas are endless! See you May 8th at 6 PM!!

CONGRATULATIONS HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

HCLC will be recognizing seniors at worship on May 5th. If you haven't RSVP'd yet, there is still time. Or you can just come either worship service!!

We'd like to extend a special congratulations to High School Seniors:

Connor Lee who will be attending WTC in the fall and continuing to work at Woodman's.



Brianna Cook who will be attending UW-Whitewater this fall to major in Criminology.



Cartyr Stumlin who will continue working for Allied Co-op after graduation.



Samantha Hammond who plans to attend WTC in the fall, majoring in accounting.



Erica Nichols who will attend WTC in the fall to study accounting.



Congrats also to HHS graduates:
Trinity Horstman and her future adventures at UW-Oshkosh and Nollan Gander

Be strong, be brave, be fearless. You are never alone. Joshua 1:9

CONGRATULATIONS COLLEGE GRADUATE

Savannah Horstman is finishing up her degree in Microbiology with a focus on Pre-Medicine as well as completing her Certificate of Forensic Death Investigation at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. She is moving back home to La Crosse for a few years to gain some clinical experience before applying to medical school! She misses her Halfway Creek family and cannot wait to start coming to services once she moves back home!



"Heavenly Father, Surround those who are graduating with your grace. Bless them with hope so that they move into the future with eager and open hearts. Help them to put the knowledge, skills, and insights gained through their education for the good of all mankind!"

WE ARE LOOKING FOR COUNTERS

Each Sunday we have volunteers count the offering, place it in a bank bag and drop it off at Park Bank in Holmen. Each counter commits to volunteer one Sunday a month. You would count with another HCLC member. This summer, with only one worship service, would be a great time for new people to learn this role. Please prayerfully consider volunteering as a counter beginning in June.

Email Jodi Anderson at jodi.anderson@halfwaycreek.org to volunteer. Thank you!

YOUTH GATHERING UPDATE

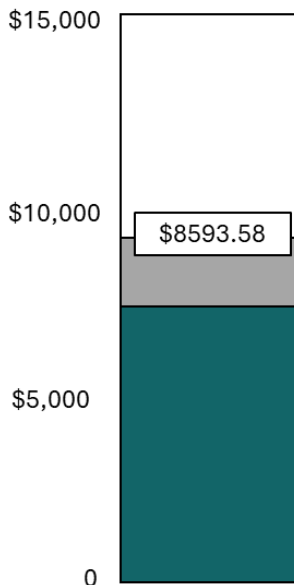
Fundraising for the Youth Gathering is going great! The teens and their families have already raised over \$8,500 of their \$15,000 goal! Thank you all for your support!! We have three fundraisers left. The next one is our Chicken Q and Bake Sale fundraiser on May 9th from 11 AM–6 PM at Journey Lutheran Church. If you need tickets, please contact the HCLC office.

Our next Youth Gathering meeting is Sunday, May 19th at 9:30 a.m. We'll be talking about our itinerary! See you there.

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



Youth Gathering Fundraising Goal



Fundraisers

Future	Chicken Q – 7/9
Future	Brat Barn – 6/1
CURRENT	Chicken Q – 5/9
\$1234.50	Meat Sale
\$1457.58	Noisy Offering April
\$484.50	Bake Sale
\$120.00	Decorated Mugs
\$402.00	Lenten Meal offering
\$150.00	WELCA gift
\$478.00	Cookie Walk
\$530.00	Candle sales
\$1582.00	Pizza fundraiser
\$170.00	Memorial donation
\$658.00	Meat Sale
\$277.00	Recycling
\$1050.00	Family Contributions
\$8593.58	Total as of 4/30/24

Thank you for your support!!

Expenses:

Registration, Lodging, Train =

\$10,257.34

Food, t-shirts, excursions, entertainment

\$4,000.00+

THRIVENT INFORMATION

If you are a Thrivent member you can organize a Thrivent Action Team to assist with a service project, fundraiser or educational event for our church or community. The team needs to include at least one Thrivent member and you need to be involved in the event (organizing, participating or helping in another way).

Thrivent provides up to \$250 debit card as seed money for supplies and other project needs.

As a member you can qualify for 2 Action Teams a calendar year. The process is simple and straight forward. It is on the Thrivent website. So if you have any ideas or want to help out with a project/ fundraiser let us know. If you have questions, Bette Pedretti can help you out.

Call: 608-526-3241 or email: bettepedretti@yahoo.com.

Thrivent members can also spend their Choice Dollars on a non-profit organization. We've had a few members choose Halfway Creek Lutheran Church. Thank you for your gifts through Thrivent. They make a huge difference in the operation costs here at Halfway Creek. If you have questions about how to indicate where your Choice Dollars are donated, please contact your Thrivent agent or talk with Bette!!

BIBLE STUDY

Our Bible Study group will be meeting on Thursday, May 16th for our last session before summer break. We will resume our new study in the fall.

AROUND OUR AREA

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
APRIL 17
MAY 15

JUNE 19
JULY 17

AUGUST 21
SEPTEMBER 18

OCTOBER 16
NOVEMBER 20
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

 RUBY'S PANTRY

HOLMEN LUTHERAN RUMMAGE SALE

Holmen Lutheran Church is having a Rummage Sale on Saturday, May 4th from 8 AM—Noon. Items will not be priced. Make an offer you think is fair.

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.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

If your birthday is missing, please notify the office.

1 Abigail Fredrickson Lise Graham	8 Megan Jostad-Myhre	17 Roger Casberg Nicole Plomedahl	27 Susan Anderson Jeffery Severson
2 Melissa Strauss	10 Samantha Bartnik Lauren Bringe	19 Susan Chase	31 Pamela Gran
3 Tina Mueller	11 Mary Severson	20 Zach Arendt Dylan Severson	
4 Laura Arnold Nancy Holley	13 Jenny Lee	24 Barbara Hale James Noel	
5 Paul Anderson	15 Paul Eide Kermit Jostad	25 Penny Achterkirch Jon Strangstalien Olivia Temp	
6 Benjamin Johnson	16 Bill Achterkirch		



We pray for ... Ray Cook, Kathy Johnson's father; the family and friends of Rod Sutherland, the family of Judy Campbell, the family of Mike Nedoba, Marjorie Lee, Jean Latham, 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
MAY 5	8:30	Mike Martin	Carrie Nicole	Rhonda Sonja
	10:30			
MAY 12	8:30	Stan Schwier	Bette P	
	10:30			Bette P Susan J
MAY 19	8:30	Archie	Nancy H.	
	10:30			Jodi Eide
MAY 26	9:00	David Chase	Barb H Bette P	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!



Power-Point 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 or email Shari:

assistant@halfwaycreek.org

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

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

WORSHIP

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

UPDATE: May 26–Sep 1
Summer Worship:
One service only!
9:00 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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