



## **CURRENTS**

JUNE 2024

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

**FROM PASTOR CHRIS**

Taking a Walk with God

Are you looking for some ways to connect with God this summer?

Walking as prayer is a beautiful way to integrate your faith into your daily routine. As you lace up your shoes and step outside, consider these ways to transform your walk into a conversation with the Divine:

**Gratitude in Every Step:** Notice the world around you. Feel the sun on your skin, the breeze on your face. Let each step be a silent thank you for God's creation.

**Mindful Moments:** Pay attention to your breath and body. As worries or anxieties arise, release them with each exhale.

**Praying for Your Community:** Walk through your neighborhood and silently lift up your neighbors, their families, and their needs.

**Reflection and Renewal:** Use your walk as a time for quiet reflection on scripture or a sermon that resonated with you.

Walking prayer is a practice open to just about everyone, whatever age or fitness level. It's a chance to connect with God, with yourself, and with the world around you. So, the next time you're feeling the need for a spiritual pick-me-up, take a walk with God. You might be surprised by the peace and clarity you find.

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Looking for a Walking Prayer Partner?

I'll be walking and hiking again as a regular prayer practice this summer. You're welcome to join me in person, or by taking your very own walk. Throughout the summer, find the post on our church's Facebook page during the week to get inspired or to share about your own walking prayer!

Keep watching for the schedule and location. And happy hiking!

-Pastor Chris

## **SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

This summer we'll have Sunday worship services at 9:00 a.m. We'll also worship outdoors at Whispering Pines at 7 p.m. on June 26, July 24 and August 28!

Please note these dates on your calendar!

Sign-up to volunteer at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0444A9AA22A3FC1-fall#/>

## **CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME**



We welcomed Tyler, Christine, River and Ryder Sherry to Halfway Creek Lutheran Church on Sunday, May 19. Ryder Philip received the sacrament of Holy Baptism!

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the baptism of Ryder Philip and the Sherry family joining this community of faith. Pour your Spirit on them, as on us all, that they may walk in footsteps of Jesus and, with us, share your message of love in the world. Amen

## 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.*

*Next Vision Board meeting is on Thursday, June 11 at 6 p.m.*

**Noisy offering:** June's Noisy offering will support the teens headed to the Youth Gathering on July 14-20. In addition to your donations, please keep these youth and their leaders in your prayers.

Thank you for donating \$277.60 to Holmen's Hope during May. We also collected 19 packs of juice boxes, 6 jars of peanut butter, 5 jars of jelly, 3 packages each of fruit cups and fruit snacks and 7 packages of granola/cookies. Thank you Bette for delivering the check and food! Check your E-news for the [link](#) to sign-up to help make lunches and deliver them this summer! What a great way to Reach Out and Share Christ with All!

**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  
May 9, 2024**

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

Guest: Mike Martin

Absent: Amy Noel, Nicole Stumlin

Call to Order @ 6:06 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda: Kari Washburn made a motion to approve the agenda, Bette Pedretti 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.

Action by VB since April meeting: Approval of April Vision Board meeting minutes on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor's Report received.

Financial Report received. Noisy offering for April was for the youth trip, May is for Holmen's Hope summer backpack program and June will be for the youth trip.

Worship & Liturgy – Carrie Payne made a motion to have an outdoor service once a month, June 26<sup>th</sup>, July 24<sup>th</sup> and August 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Nancy Holley 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.

Property Team: Mike Martin provided update on back door and new lawn mower donated.

Old Business: Update was provided regarding Shared ministry. Synod Assembly is June 7-9 and has been moved to First Lutheran in Onalaska. Bette and Rich Pedretti have agreed to be our representatives.

New Business: Holmen's Hope is looking for volunteers for the backpack lunch program.

Closing Prayer

Adjourned @ 7 p.m.

Next meeting: Thursday, June 11 at 6 p.m.

## **THRIVENT ACTION TEAM**

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. Thrivent provides up to \$250 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 on the Thrivent website. 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](mailto:bettepedretti@yahoo.com).

## **FINANCIAL UPDATES**

We've been doing what we can to keep everyone informed about how the finances of our church, trying things from posting reports in the monthly newsletter, to including the numbers in our weekly E-news. But sometimes those numbers just get lost or become meaningless. So, here you will find one of what will be a periodic report of where we are. Hopefully simple and clear, and spaced out enough that it creates a good snapshot.

### **First the good about our extra projects!**

As of the end of April, we've fully funded our repairs project for our building of \$37,645!

And by the end of May, our Youth Group has raised just over \$10,500 for their trip to New Orleans with various fundraisers that have reached out and engaged the community. Thank you, everyone, for your support!

### **Where we stand for the regular stuff:**

You can see in the charts on the next page where our giving has been short. To balance our checkbook, rental income and fees have been helpful, and we have used money from our reserves (which are not on any charts in the newsletter). Before taking out funds, the balance of our available reserves was \$30,701.86. As of April, we have had to use **\$7,500** of our reserves.

Thank you for your attention to our church's finances. If you are considering giving a gift this summer, please know that it will be very appreciated! Summer tends to be a lower time of giving, and making up for the beginning of the year, or setting us up well for the summer, is a wonderful, faithful, and very appreciated act of generosity.

## FINANCIAL UPDATES

	<u>Total Offering*</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Difference</u>
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
April-24	\$11,649.00	\$17,423.61	-\$5,774.61
Running Totals	\$54,013.30	\$73,087.86	-\$19,074.56

\*Total Offering includes electronic, envelope and loose offering but does not include any rent income.

### Halfway Creek Dedicated Funds

4/30/2024

	<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	\$1,409.95
Technology Fund	\$1,000.00
Income for Lift Rental	\$96.50
Legacy Building Project/Windows	\$0.00
Interest	\$92.03
Ending Balance	<b>\$22,892.96</b>

\*\$628.81 remaining balance - designated for new microphones

## **IT'S MOWING SEASON**

Mowing season is going well. Rich and Mike have been working together using the new mower and the Cub Cadet that was fixed and gifted back to the church. Thank you to Jim and Gary Hagel for working on that mower for the church. It has worked great! Thank you to everyone who donated Kwik Trip gas cards and cash. The team is set for a good part of the summer!

## **GARDENING GROUP**

The gardening group will meet on Wednesdays at 9 a.m. through the summer. From planting to weeding, many hands make light work! Come on out and join us. A huge thanks to Archie for prepping the garden and for Bill for supplying so many of our plants.

## **SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

### **La Crosse Synod Assembly is June 7-9, 2024.**

The assembly will open with worship at 6 p.m. on Friday, June 7 at First Lutheran Church. On Sunday, June 9th we'll worship with the Synod Assembly at Riverside park in La Crosse at 10 a.m. followed by a picnic lunch. (Please NOTE: We will not have worship at HCLC that day).



If you have not attended this service before, please prayerfully consider coming this year!

As part of the service project and offering this year, we'll be collecting new socks and new underwear to be distributed to local clothing closets. Please bring your donation to church by June 2 or bring them along to worship on the 9th!



## YOUTH GATHERING UPDATE

Fundraising for the Youth Gathering is going great! The teens and their families have already raised over \$10,500 of their \$15,000 goal! Thank you all for your support!! They have a couple fundraisers left. On June 1st, you will find them at the Brat Barn at the Holmen Festival Foods. Brats, hot dogs and hamburgers will be sold from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. Mark your calendars!!

The group will be meeting in June to prepare for the Gathering. Please keep Jillian, Ema, Olivia, Gracie, Anna, Tonya, Jodi and Pastor Chris your prayers!

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



## CONFIRMATION

Confirmation year-end party was filled with water games galore! See you in the fall!





## SUMMER FOOD COLLECTION

We support the Holmen Lutheran Food Pantry all year long. Drop off donations in the grocery cart when the office is open or on Sundays. This month we are collecting jars of spaghetti sauce! Thank you in advance for supporting this ministry.

## BIBLE STUDY

Our Bible Study group will resume October 17 at 9:30 a.m. and continue to meet each 3rd Thursday through May.

## HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH CEMETERY NEWS

### Town of Onalaska Eastern Cemeteries



Halfway Creek Lutheran Church is surrounded by several cemeteries, as shown by the photo to the left taken from:

<https://archives.lacrosselibrary.org/local-history/cemeteries/halfway-creek-lutheran-church>.

Halfway Creek Lutheran Cemetery has four pastors buried at Halfway Creek Lutheran Cemetery:

Lauritz S. J. Reque, 1873-1952;

Hans Hjermstad, 1877-1933; Ulrick Carl Hjermstad, 1840-1908, and Norman A Berntson, 1910-1996. Take time to walk through the cemetery and locate these pastors. Enjoy the many flags honoring the veterans buried there as well.

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

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

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

1	12	18	23
Adelynn Balow	Jillian Eide	Henry Barbour	Nadine Strauss
3	Hallie Halverson	Jessica Harper	24
Bryce Hale	13	Gretchen Sesvold	Jack Bringe
4	Joe Anderson	Soren Sesvold	26
Blake Anderson	14	19	Jameson Happel
Jordan Anderson	Susan Swackhamer	Rowdy Beneke	27
Karla Anderson	15	Anna Holley	Sami Adam
6	Jackson McCoy	Andrew Wilson	29
Liam Oines	Tyler Rosenow	20	Gunnar Gates
Aleasha Payne	17	Patti Happel	
9	Mary Gordon	Glenn Schmidt	
Alice Miller	Dylan Hale	21	
10	Samanatha Pralle	Benjamin Olson	
Brian Johnson	Abbey Stasiak		



*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
<b>JUNE 2</b>	8:30	Mike Martin	Carrie Nicole	Rhonda Sonja
<b>JUNE 9</b>	8:30	Stan Schwier	Bette P	Bette P Susan J
<b>JUNE 16</b>	8:30	Archie	Nancy H.	Jodi Eide
<b>JUNE 23</b>	9:00	David Chase	Barb H Bette P	Mike
<b>JUNE 30</b>	9:00	Archie	Kari	Mike

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

### **Counters Needed**

If you would be interested in helping count money one Sunday a month, please contact Jodi at [jodi.anderson@halfwaycreek.org](mailto:jodi.anderson@halfwaycreek.org).

### **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).

Gifting 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 or email Shari: [assistant@halfwaycreek.org](mailto:assistant@halfwaycreek.org).**

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

**WORSHIP**

**May 26—Sep 1**  
**Summer Worship:**  
**One service !**  
**9:00 a.m.**

A yellow rectangular sticker with a red pushpin in the top left corner. The word "Change" is written in a black, cursive-style font across the center of the sticker.

**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](https://www.facebook.com/halfwaycreeklutheranchurchholmen)  
[#halfwaycreeklutheranchurch](https://www.instagram.com/halfwaycreeklutheranchurch)  
[#reachoutsharechristwithall](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Halfway Creek Lutheran Church  
W6016 County Road W  
Holmen, WI 54636

## Halfway Creek Cemetery

### *It's never too early to purchase your final resting place*

If you plan to be buried — or cremated and buried — in Halfway Creek Cemetery, it's to your benefit to choose your location and purchase your lot(s) well in advance of your demise.



- ♦ Halfway Creek Lutheran Church members pay just \$300 for a single casket-and-vault burial plot OR a cremation plot that will accommodate up to four cremation urns.
- ♦ Nonmembers who wish to be buried — or cremated and buried — at the cemetery pay \$600 for a single casket-and-vault burial plot OR a cremation plot that will accommodate up to four cremation urns.
- ♦ Cremation urns may be buried in an existing family member's plot (a parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, aunt or uncle, for example) for \$250 per urn.

For more details, or to reserve your resting place, call Dan Brudahl, 608-526-6950, Mark Witte, 608-317-0183, or Ruth Scholze, 608-797-9391

### *Your cemetery needs your support*

Remember Halfway Creek Cemetery when you're making your charitable contributions — and please consider a donation to the cemetery in your will, too.