



## **CURRENTS**

AUGUST 2024

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

**FROM PASTOR CHRIS**

The Youth Gathering, this year held in New Orleans, Louisiana, is the largest gathering we have as ELCA. 16,000 Lutherans filled the Smoothie King Stadium each night for worship, and took to the streets each day to engage in a variety of experiences.

From Halfway Creek, we were represented by five amazing youth, two fantastic chaperones, and a pastor. On the following pages of this newsletter you will see all kinds of pictures and read some snippets of the experiences that we had.

Every day was amazing from the interactive learning experiences put on by ELCA ministries such as World Hunger and Global Refuge (and many more), to the service projects on accompaniment day where we helped at local elementary schools. We took 20,000-30,000 steps, and had our faith kindled by learning, service, music, and speakers for 5 straight days.

Be sure to ask the ones who went about their experiences. Give them opportunities to live out their faith and change the world for the good. They learned that they are: Created to Be: brave, authentic, free, disruptive disciples. You are created to be loved. Go share the good news!

-Pastor Chris

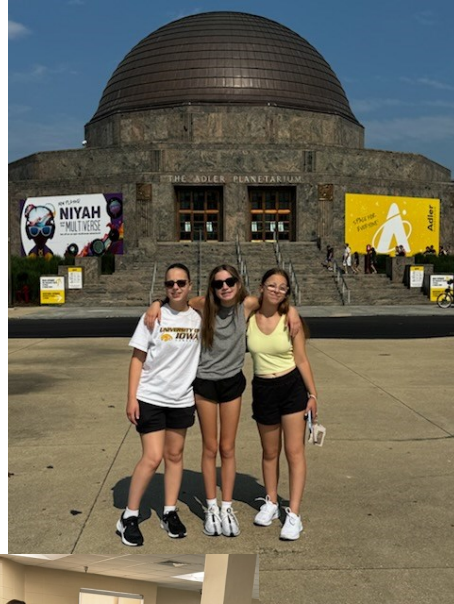
Cont. on Page 2

## August 2024 Currents

Cont'd from page 1



While in Chicago, we went to a planetarium to pass the time, and outside there was a beautiful view of Lake Michigan and the city.



Our group volunteered at an elementary school, helping them get ready for the next coming school year



## YOUTH GATHERING UPDATE



Gracie, Tonya, Anna, Olivia, Jodi, Ema, Jillian and Pastor Chris—thanks a great Youth Gathering trip this year! Thanks to all who supported us!!

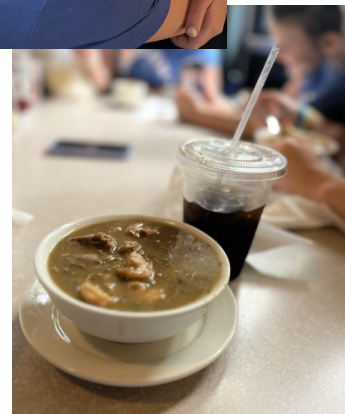
First night at the mass gathering at the Smoothie King



center. "It was always filled with lights and singing and dancing. My favorite thing about the mass gathering would have to be the inspirational speakers!", said Olivia.



This was a group photo we took at the elementary school we volunteered at. The other group with us were from California, and we had fun conversations about the different weather we have in Wisconsin compared to California. They told us that they have school outside! They were surprised to hear that almost everything we do at school is inside. It was fun!



"My second time trying gumbo! I took a picture of my food and it was very good!", said Oliva.

**HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH  
VISION BOARD MEETING MINUTES - July 11, 2024**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Patti Happel, Amy Noel, Carrie Payne, Bette Pedretti, Nicole Stumlin  
Kari Washburn, Andrea Baxter and Nancy Holley

ABSENT: Pastor Chris Sesvold

Call to order @ 6:10PM

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

**Actions since last meeting:** Motion made and seconded to approve June 13, 2024 VB meeting minutes. Approved June 22, 2024.

**Financial Report Received:** Jodi Anderson, Bookkeeper, was here to share report and answer questions.

- Current average monthly expenses: \$18,962
- Current average monthly offerings: \$12,759
- 2024 monthly giving to support the general fund is down approximately \$1334 compared to giving in 2023.
- Through July 11, we have used \$15,300 from the Thrivent fund to pay our bills.
- Approximate balance of Thrivent account as of July 11 is \$13,600.

At the Feb. 4, 2024 annual meeting, the congregation voted to explore a shared ministry model. A group was formed under the leadership of President Patti Happel to do this work. They were invited to the this meeting to share what they learned and to give a recommendation. Members present: Patti Happel, Mike Martin, Lynn Wenger, Kathi Hagel. Cassie Tolvstad was not able to be here tonight. Some of their work included:

1. Meeting with Holmen Lutheran to explore pastoral partnerships. After further review and discussion the Holmen council has declined.
2. Conversation with the bishop which included the opportunity to explore Synod Appointed Ministers, which are lay people who have taken extra training.
3. Bishop also shared what other churches are doing that are in a similar financial situation. Some of those options included: half time positions, use of Supply pastors, and/or increasing to a 2 or 3 point parish.
4. Internet searches
5. They discussed pros and cons of several possibilities.

Recommendation: Explore half time pastor position for HCLC. They shared a proposed job description of 20-25 salaried hours per week.

We thanked them for their faithful investigation and discernment. Lynn offered a prayer.

Continued on page 5

After Vision Board discussion, we decided to engage the congregation in next steps in this critical financial struggle and recommendation.

Week of July 15th - Letter to the congregation.

Sunday, July 21st and 28th - Announcement of upcoming meeting and having VB members available after the services to answer questions.

Sunday, August 4th - 10:15 Congregational meeting. Announcements for the meeting will begin with the letter.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20.

## Congregational Meeting

August 4, 2024 at 10:15 a.m.

All members are encouraged to attend.

### **SUMMER FOOD COLLECTION**

Thank for all of your baking supplies donations in July. We collected 16 baking mixes and 18 baking ingredients and 10 miscellaneous items. We received a thank you note from the Holmen Lutheran Service Ministry Team—they very much appreciated all of the supplies. Thank you Bette for coordinating the food drive and delivering the items!

In August, we will be collecting: side dishes. Think Pasta Roni, Rice a Roni, Scalloped Potatoes, Ramen, noodle dishes, etc. Please bring items to church and place in the grocery cart! Thanks for making a difference.

### **SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

This summer we'll have Sunday worship services at 9:00 a.m. There will be no outdoor Wednesday service in August. To volunteer at worship please sign-up at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0444A9AA22A3FC1-fall#/>

### **GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.**

We'll gather at Halfway Creek bandshell on Sunday, September 8th at 10:30 a.m. Save the date and see the insert for more information!!

## 2024 VISION BOARD

### Co-Presidents

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

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

### Co-Secretaries

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

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

### Treasurer

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

### Members

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

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

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

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

*Next Vision Board meeting is on Thursday, August 8 at 6 p.m.*

**Noisy offering:** July's noisy offering was collected for Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin. We collected \$147.93! Thanks for helping support this worthy cause!

The August noisy offering will be collected to help reduce the school lunch debt in Holmen and buy school supplies if there is excess money. This is in response to God's work. Our hands. in September!! Check out the insert for more information.

**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.



## PROPERTY TEAM UPDATE



Mike and Rich painted the cement brick on the east side of the church this past month. Thanks to Archie for helping finish the trim along the roof line. The finished job looks great! Take a walk around the church when you are here and check it out! Thanks Mike, Rich and Archie!!

## HOLY BAPTISM

Congratulations to the Bartnik family on the Baptism of Melody Mae! We wish the entire family: Samantha, Kevin, Mia, Miles and Melody faith-filled lives with all of God's blessings.



## HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH CEMETERY NEWS

The month of August has begun, how quickly summer is winding down. Holmen gets ready for the 60th anniversary of Kornfest. This celebration happens because of the ongoing commitment of the Holmen Area Lions Club and Holmen American Legion. Halfway Creek Lutheran Church cemetery has a connection to the Holmen American Legion.



In the cemetery is this headstone. Morris Snuggerud, died from tuberculosis while in the service and had become Holmen's first casualty of World War 1. The Holmen American Legion, Post 284, is named after this veteran. We thank all veterans for their service!

Mark your Calendar for the  
Halfway Creek Cemetery Association Meeting  
September 29, 2024 after worship  
See next page for more information!

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. Contact your Halfway Creek Cemetery trustees:

Dan Brudahl, 608-526-6950;

Mark Witte, 608-317-0183;

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.*



## Halfway Creek Lutheran Cemetery Association Special Meeting September 29

The Halfway Creek Lutheran Cemetery Association will hold a brief Special Meeting following the 9:00 church service on Sunday, September 29, in the Halfway Creek Lutheran Church sanctuary. The meeting will begin at approximately 10:00. All members of the Halfway Creek Lutheran Church and/or those who have purchased lots in the cemetery or directly descended from someone buried there are members of the Cemetery Association.

The purpose of the meeting is to vote on the following amendment to the Halfway Creek Lutheran Cemetery Association Constitution to later be ratified at the Annual Meeting in February 2025:

- Change the wording in Article V from: “The trustees must be members of the association, members of the Halfway Creek Lutheran Church, and residents of the state of Wisconsin” to “The trustees must be members of the association **and/or** members of the Halfway Creek Lutheran Church, and residents of the state of Wisconsin.” This change would allow for members of the association who are not members of the congregation to serve as trustees.

The following amendments to the Halfway Creek Lutheran Cemetery Association Bylaws will also be presented for approval to immediately go into effect:

- Change the wording in Section II.C. from: “A single gravesite may be used for up to four cremations. However, all of the names must be on one monument for a single gravesite.” to “A single gravesite may be used for up to four cremations **or one full casket burial. No more than one monument shall be placed on a single gravesite.**”
- Add the following Rules and Regulations to Section V:
  - ◇ All new monuments placed in the cemetery must be above ground. No at ground level or below ground monuments will be allowed.
  - ◇ Due to the proximity of Halfway Creek to the cemetery, green burials will not be allowed.
  - ◇ No food may be left at gravesites.

We hope you are able to join us on September 29. If you have any questions, please reach out to one of the trustees: Ruth Scholze (608-797-9391), Mark Witte (608-317-0183), and Daniel Brudahl (608-526-6950).

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

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

<b>2</b> Tyson Gates	<b>14</b> Ty McCoy	<b>24</b> Karla Johnson Declan Mihm	<b>29</b> Kaila Casberg Miriam Heyer Samantha Olson
<b>3</b> Simon Nedoba Christine Sherry	<b>16</b> Mary Ann Hadl	<b>25</b> Carol Bringe Dominic Rosenow	<b>30</b> Rosalinda Miller
<b>5</b> Thelma Severson	<b>18</b> David Gates Jennifer Stasiak	<b>26</b> Jenessa Hill Kohl Linberg	<b>31</b> Marna Holley
<b>6</b> Rhonda Tremain- Yeiter	<b>19</b> Rori Tolvstad Sally Johnson	<b>27</b> Abigail Bramwell Mary Dokkebakken Evan Tuquero	
<b>7</b> Pat Martin Andy Mueller Amy Noel	<b>20</b> Dana Casberg	<b>28</b> Violet Chase Mel Howe	
<b>9</b> David Anderson Jenna Happel	<b>22</b> Jane Halverson		
	<b>23</b> Kayla Severson		



*We pray for ... Kannon Happel; Ray Cook, Kathy Johnson's father; the family and friends of Rod Sutherland, Judy Campbell, Raymond Lee, Mike Nedoba and Curt 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>AUG 4</b>	9:00	Mike Martin	Carrie Nicole	Rhonda Sonja
<b>AUG 11</b>	9:00	Stan Schwier	Bette P	Bette P Susan J
<b>AUG 18</b>	9:00	Archie	Nancy H.	Jodi Eide
<b>AUG 25</b>	9:00	David Chase	Bette P	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).

Pastor Chris is on vacation August 5-11. For Pastoral Care please contact Pr. Emma Grinde at 515-203-1915; all other days contact the office or Pastor Chris Sesvold at 608-397-1578.

### **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!**



**Acolytes 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**

**Through Sep 1**  
**Summer Worship:**  
**One Sunday**  
**service at 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

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