



CURRENTS

SEPTEMBER 2024

Reach Out , Share Christ with All

Greetings from Halfway Creek Lutheran Church!

You probably have heard there are some changes underway, and we want share our plan for the future. We know most people are feeling like we've had a decade of challenges, with different pastors, Covid, and financial ups and downs. But our church leaders have been working hard with the Synod to ensure that our congregation remains a place that continues to live our mission of reaching out to share Christ with all, as we have done for generations. We've come up with a hybrid model that many congregations have found successful, using fill-in pastors and lay leadership for worship. Here are some of our immediate plans:

- Lynn Wegner will share the message at a Service of the Word on Sunday, September 1 at 9 am.
- On Sunday, September 8 at 10:30 am, we will worship with Holmen Lutheran and Journey at the Halfway Creek Park Bandshell. Bring your own lawn chair! Pr. Dione Stepanek will be preaching.
- Our Ministry Kick-Off Sunday is September 15th. We will hold a meeting with Confirmation and Sunday School families that morning at 9:15 am and parents can register their children. Pr. Jim Arends will preach at 10 am worship and a Caramel Apple Charcuterie Bar will follow!
- At our Confirmation and Sunday School family meeting at 9:15 am on Sunday, September 15, we will present ideas for a new and creative approach to our Confirmation and Sunday school programming. We know families are busy. **WE NEED YOUR INPUT** so we can develop programming that works for both your child's spiritual needs and your family's schedule.

September 2024 Currents

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- On Sunday, September 22, 10 am worship will be led by Pastor Bill Pursley.
- Our services will be creative, inspiring, and include both traditional and modern worship songs. The services will be led by fill-in pastors and also our own lay leaders.
- Trunk or Treat is back and is scheduled for Saturday, October 26 from 1 to 3 pm in the parking lot. There will be trick or treating, snacks, games and more! Please contact Andrea Baxter at 608-738-3896 if you are able to help!

If you need pastoral care, please contact Patti Happel at 608-317-9525.

Please know that the Vision Board and staff are working very hard during this time of transition. We would love your help. What gifts do you have that you can share and help us live out our mission of reaching out to share Christ with all? Not sure how you can help? Contact a Vision Board or staff member and we will find a place to use your talents! We also ask for your prayers during this time.

As we move forward, let us remember that we are resurrection people. God promises us new life through Jesus. While the way we do ministry and life together might look differently in the future, let us embrace these changes as opportunities for God to lead our congregation in new ways to share the Gospel.

Sincerely,
The Halfway Creek Vision Board and Staff

SUMMER FOOD COLLECTION

Thank you for all the side dishes donated for the Food Cupboard In August.

Throughout September we'll be collecting cans of chili and various soups. Dried soup mixes would be great as well.

Please bring items to church and place in the grocery cart! Thanks for making a difference and supporting this ministry!

NEW WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Earlier in 2024, a number of members asked the question “Do we really need two services?” We heard your concern and given Pastor Chris’ resignation, we felt one service on Sunday morning would be the best scenario for our congregation currently. We looked at the worship numbers for the last 5 to 7 years and discovered that the late worship service time had the largest average attendance. We also discovered that Holmen Lutheran worships at 9 am while Journey worships at 9:30 am. Given that information, we decided that a 10 am worship service time would encourage better worship attendance and save the church some money. A 10 am worship service time also allows us to easily add in an early worship service without changing the rest of the Sunday morning schedule. Please contact Lynn Wegner at 414-305-4803 if you have any questions.

TRUNK OR TREAT



Trunk or Treat is back and is scheduled for Saturday, October 26 from 1 to 3 pm in the HCLC parking lot. There will be trick or treating, snacks, games and more! Please contact Andrea Baxter at 608-738-3896 if you are able to help!

You can also sign up online at:

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP A MEMBER

We have a member who needs someone to get a few groceries and be able to deliver them while navigating uneven ground and metal steps. We have a couple people currently helping and are looking to add one or two people to the schedule, making the time commitment once every couple months. Please contact [Shari](#) in the office if you can help! Thank you for prayerfully considering this request.

**Halfway Creek Lutheran Church Congregational Meeting
August 4, 2024**

**NOTE: MINUTES REVIEWED BY VISION BOARD ON AUGUST 8, 2024,
WILL BE APPROVED AT THE NEXT CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

Call to order at 10:19AM by VB President Patti Happel. Forty seven members present.

Opening prayer led by Pastor Chris Sesvold.

Letters from VB and Pastor Chris dated July 31, 2024 were available for review if not already received in the mail.

Patti reviewed the information in the VB letter, a timeline of communication to the congregation and activity since the annual meeting.

October - Letter to congregation and informational sessions

February - Annual meeting and approval of “bare bones” budget (no staff salary increases and holding Pastor to six year compensation level)

Work of a committee to explore options for different ministry models.

Regular financial information through bulletin, weekly ENews, newsletter and conversation.

Financial questions discussed at the meeting.

Remaining Thrivent balance <\$7500

Current monthly mortgage payment of \$2581. Current interest rate of 4.09%. End of July mortgage balance of \$292,622. Our loan is up for renewal in March 2026.

On average thru July our total monthly offering compared to expenditures is -\$6125. This does not include rental income.

Cost of supply pastor: \$175-\$200 per service plus mileage. (Refer to Synod guidelines.)

Cost of closing includes: Lawyer fees, plan to sell property (realtor, survey and well sharing, etc.). At this time, we do not have the finances to pursue this.

Ideas generated in discussion:

When youth were out in the neighborhood fundraising, they found that many people were not aware of HCLC and our ministry. Could we go into all the local neighborhoods with a different message (how we are part of the community, historical story to tell, etc.)

Members were willing to connect with our “inactive” members.

Community event (some fundraising) that allow us to be more visible. Already planning “Trunk and Treat”.

Priorities:

Sunday School and Confirmation programming

Worship planning between supply and lay led

Planning around ideas generated today

Supporting daily activities of the church & congregational needs (urgent pastoral care, etc.)

We will need everyone’s help whether it is in time, talent or finance.

Whatever you can give to help us to move forward.

Pastor Chris addressed those present:

Grateful for my time here, I still feel the life within this congregation.

Keep telling your story of faith.

Advice: Go down a path of “holy closure”. If you need to close in the future, create your legacy.

Closed with prayer. Meeting adjourned at 11:14.

HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH
VISION BOARD MEETING
August 8, 2024

Present: Patti Happel, Kari Washburn, Amy Noel, Andrea Baxter, Bette Pedretti, Nancy Holley, and Nicole Stumlin

Absent: Carrie Payne and Pastor Chris Sesvold

Guest: Lynn Wegner

Call to order at 6:02PM. Devotion led by Patti Happel.

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

Actions since last meeting:

7/11/24 – VB met to go over finances only

7/16/24 – Letter sent, calling for a Congregational meeting on 8/4/24

7/17/24 – Minutes from July meeting approved via email

7/22/24 - July 13 VB minutes approved via email

7/22/24 – VB met with Assistant to the Bishop Pastor Dione. **Recommendation:** After careful discernment and prayer, under the guidance of pastor Dione, the recommendation was made that we cannot sustain the salary and benefits of a full time rostered pastor. This will be shared via letter and at the August 4th congregational meeting.

7/25/24 – VB met with Pastor Chris to share recommendation

7/29/24 - Accepted a gift of a ping pong table to be placed in the Heritage Hall

7/31/24 – Pastor Chris submits resignation letter

7/31/24 – Pastor’s resignation letter & letter from VB sent out to congregation

8/4/24 – Congregational meeting. Minutes of this meeting were reviewed by the VB and will be included in the next newsletter with that note. They will be approved at the next congregational meeting.

Pastor’s Report - No report.

Financial Report received

Continuing to rely of Thrivent funds to pay monthly expenses.

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September 2024 Currents

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Noisy Offering:

September – Youth programming

October - Little Heart Project spearheaded by Kathleen Jensen, a former Administrative Assistant here at HCLC. This will include volunteer opportunities.

OLD BUSINESS: God's Work Our Hands on September 8 at the Holmen Band shell. Bette will follow up with Holmen Lutheran on our responsibilities r/t school supply distribution.

NEW BUSINESS

Sunday School & Confirmation: Lynn will lead a group to include Kari, Andrea, Nicole and Carrie to create a plan for fall. A meeting on September 15 for all parents/guardians/families is planned to seek input on the upcoming year.

Worship Schedule for fall: Motion made and seconded to move worship time of 10:00 AM beginning September 15th. Discussion: The Music and Liturgy team met to make a recommendation for worship times beginning this fall. Based on attendance trends last year with two services, there was better attendance at the later service including more families and children. The other two Holmen congregations have an earlier service. Motion passed.

One of the suggestions made at the congregational meeting was to use volunteers to reach out to members of the congregation that were not at the meeting. Amy will lead this effort along with Nancy and Lynn.

Pastor's final service on August 25, 2024. Planning for "Thanksgiving at the Conclusion of a Call for a Pastor" ceremony at the end of the service. VB will host coffee hour celebration.

Motion made and seconded to allow a scrapbook event here at the church on October 4 & 5, 2024, hosted by Shari Ireland and Jodi Anderson. Motion passed.

Closing Prayer

Adjournment at 7:48 PM

Next meeting(s): Thursday September 12, 2024 – 6pm

G O D ' S W O R K . O U R H A N D S .

We'll gather at Halfway Creek bandshell on Sunday, September 8th at 10:30 a.m.

More information may be found on the insert in this newsletter. See you for a wonderful day of service!

2024 VISION BOARD

Co-Presidents

Patti Happel
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608-317-9525

Amy Noel
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608-386-0299

Bette Pedretti
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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, September 12 at 6 p.m.

Noisy offering: August's noisy offering was collected to help reduce the Holmen School District school lunch program debt. We collected 363.01. This amount will be combined with the collection at "God's work. Our hands". on September 8th! Thanks for helping support this worthy cause!

The September noisy offering will go toward HCLC Youth Programming. Let's keep making some noise!

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.



BEST WISHES PASTOR CHRIS

Thank you, Pastor Chris, for your three years of ministry at Halfway Creek Lutheran Church. We wish much happiness and success on the next part of your life's journey. God bless you and your family.



HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH CEMETERY NEWS

Take time to visit the Halfway Creek Lutheran Church Cemetery and sit upon this beautiful new bench. Thanks to Raymond's family and friends for this bench at the entrance of the cemetery gate. It recognizes 65+ years dedicated to the cemetery from Raymond. The words written by a friend says: "A selfless caretaker in life, and forever our watchful guardian in the fields of Heaven."



Halfway Creek Lutheran Cemetery Association Special Meeting September 29

The Halfway Creek Lutheran Cemetery Association will hold a brief Special Meeting following the 10:00 a.m. church service on Sunday, September 29, in the Halfway Creek Lutheran Church sanctuary. 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).

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

If your birthday is missing, please notify the office.

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Rachel Temp | 13 Jason Bramwell | 20 Dawn Rink | 26 Eric Theisen |
| 3 Adalyn Ruhbusch | Susie Johnson | 21 Nicole Lepsch | 28 Aaron Balow |
| 4 Gail Dent | 14 Emersen Strangstalien | 22 Hadley Given | Jason Ruhbusch |
| 5 Gregory Britton | Darlene Feltes | Hannah Wegner | 30 Jessica Cook |
| 6 Teagan Yahnke | Buelah Sanders | 23 James Hansen | Chad Hanson |
| 7 Adler McDowell | Shelly Thompson | David Johnson | Josh Kinsman |
| 8 Angela Kinsman | 15 Jesse Fiers | Morgan Jostad | Maverick Ruhbusch |
| 10 Rayna Hendrickson | 17 Kaden Casberg | Stan Schwier | Nash Ulrich |
| 11 Brody Happel | 18 Diane Jostad | Lila Sutherland | Julia Yahnke |
| | Emily Jostad | 25 Ruth Jostad | |
| | Kimberly Noel | Benjamin Mueller | |
| | 19 Alyssa Shisler | Richard Pedretti | |



We pray for ... Ron Hanson, Kannon Happel; Ray Cook; 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, Buelah 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 |
|---------------|-------|--|------------------|-------------------|
| SEP 1 | 9:00 | Mike | Carrie Nicole | Rhonda Sonja |
| | | | | |
| SEP 8 | 10:30 | God's Work. Our Hands. Worship at Halfway Creek Bandshell! | | |
| | | | | |
| SEP 15 | 10:00 | Archie | Nancy | Jodi E |
| | | | | |
| SEP 22 | 10:00 | David C. | Bette | Mike |
| | | | | |
| SEP 29 | 10:00 | Archie | Kari | 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.

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.

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.

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

WORSHIP

Sep 1: 9 a.m.

Sep 8: 10:30 a.m.

at Halfway Creek Bandshell

Beginning Sep 15: 10:00 a.m.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Closed

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 Patti at 608-317-9525.

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

God's work. Our hands.

Sunday, September 8 at 10:30 a.m.



Join us at
Halfway Creek Park Bandshell
 Sunday September 8 at 10:30 am.
 for a combined worship with
 Journey Lutheran, Holmen
 Lutheran, & Halfway Creek
 Lutheran churches on this day of
 service!

We will be collecting **school supplies** for Holmen elementary school teachers and staff. Please bring your donations to worship on September 8th or drop them off at church anytime before.

God's work. Our hands.

September 8, 2024

School Supplies List for Service Project:

- Clorox Wipes
- Kleenex
- Individual Snacks
- Stickers
- Ziploc Bags (All Sizes)
- Paper Plates (Small & Large)
- Dixie Cups/Plastic Cups
- Pencil Top Erasers
- Napkins
- Plastic Silverware
- Expo Markers
- Post-It Notes (Various Sizes)
- Pencils/Colored Pencils
- Markers
- Elmer's glue sticks
- Crayons