



## **CURRENTS**

OCTOBER 2024

*Reach Out , Share Christ with All*

### **It's back! Join us for a Pet Blessing on Sunday, October 6**

In honor of the Feast of St. Francis, we will be holding a **Pet Blessing on Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> from 9 to 9:30 AM**. The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi is observed on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>. St. Francis was an Italian friar who took a vow of poverty and cared for the poor. He also believed nature – including its creatures – was the mirror of God. He preached that it is our duty to protect and enjoy nature as both the stewards of God's creation and as creatures ourselves. In 1979, Pope John Paul II declared St. Francis to be the Patron of Ecology.

Many ELCA congregations celebrate the wonders of God's creation and the legacy of St. Francis by holding pet-blessing services and activities for the community around this time of the year. It is a time to remember how God's creatures – of all sizes, shapes and species – bless our lives and are essential to the environment that sustains all living things, including humankind. We commit ourselves to caring for their wellbeing in the world whether they be service animals, pets, domesticated animals, wild animals, pets in shelters, bugs or creatures that fly, crawl, run or swim.

Our Pet Blessing will be held outdoors in the upper parking lot on Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9 AM with a short 5 minute prayer service and then individual pet blessings until 9:30 AM. We welcome animals of all kinds! **WE ASK THAT ALL ANIMALS BE CONTAINED; EITHER ON A LEASH OR INSIDE A PET CARRIER.** We also ask that attendees be responsible for picking up any animal waste left by their pet in our parking lot.

We hope you will join us for this special blessing!

HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH  
VISION BOARD MEETING AGENDA  
September 12, 2024

**Present:** Patti Happel, Amy Noel, Andrea Baxter, Bette Pedretti and Nicole Stumlin

**Absent:** Carrie Payne, Kari Washburn and Nancy Holley

**Guest:** Lynn Wegner, Shari Ireland and Jodi Anderson

Call to order at 6:05PM. Devotion led by Patti Happel.

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

**Actions since last meeting:**

**8/18/24** Approval of August Vision Board meeting minutes via email.

**9/3/24** Approval to replace dishwasher @ parsonage via email.

**Financial Report received**

- Continuing to rely of Thrivent funds to pay monthly expenses. Thrivent accounts must maintain a \$1000 minimum in each of the two accounts.
- Recommendation made and endorsed to send statements of giving out three times per year instead of four.
- The Synod has guidelines for payment to pastors who are willing to support us for emergency pastoral care.

**Noisy Offering:**

- October - Little Heart Project spearheaded by Kathleen Jensen, a former Administrative Assistant here at HCLC. This will include volunteer opportunities when she joins us for worship on October 27th.
- November - Wafer Food Pantry in partnership with Holmen High School FFA.
- December - Unsheltered in our community with a focus supporting the ministry of Karuna House in La Crosse. <https://www.karunahousing.org/>

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- God's Work Our Hands was September 8 at the Holmen Band shell. There was an incredible response to the request for school supplies. Each of the four elementary schools in Holmen received four boxes of supplies. An offering of over \$700 went to the unpaid school lunch fund. Next year we will be responsible for the worship service and coffee/donuts before the service.
- Amy has been working with a group of eleven volunteers, making calls to members, giving updates on what's happening here at HCLC. Overall, there has been a positive response to those we have talked to.
- VB will develop a plan later this year to update our membership roles.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- There is a baptism planned this Sunday. Patti has been in conversation with another couple on a possible future baptism.
- Sunday School & Confirmation: A meeting on September 15 for all parents/guardians/families is planned to seek input on the schedule and curriculum for the upcoming year. We are aware that background checks should be done on all SS/Confirmation volunteers. Several may already have done this through their place of employment and we will work on a plan for the rest. Will consider other education for this group, i.e. mandatory reporting and/or safety training.
- Worship Schedule: A motion made and seconded to endorse the Music and Liturgy Team recommendation for a 2PM and 4PM service on Christmas Eve. Motion passed. The VB will look at creating a online opportunity for Christmas Day.
- A motion was made and seconded to allow the local 4H to meet at the church on Sunday afternoons through October. Discussion: With our approval, we will ask the leader to review the Building Use Policy. Motion passed.
- We have supply pastors scheduled to cover most Sundays until the end of the year. Thank you Shari for your work in continuing to support the ministry of HCLC.
- Script Sales are still available to the congregation. Shari will provide education in the next newsletter on what and how to purchase online and designate HCLC as the beneficiary.
- We have been approached by one of the local funeral homes offering to provide an educational session on funeral planning. Bette will investigate outreach opportunity further.

Closing Prayer

Adjournment at 7:25 PM

Next meeting(s): Thursday, October 12, 2024 @ 6pm

## **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Please warmly welcome our Supply Pastors and guest speakers this month!**

### **October—Sundays at 10 AM**

**6**—Ron Christensen (note: Pet Blessing in the parking lot at 9 AM)

**13**—Pastor Dione Stepanek, La Crosse Area Synod

**20**—Pastor Wayne Van Kauwenbergh; Todd Trautman will talk about Thrivent

**27**(Reformation Sunday)—Pastor Carol Garman; Kathleen Jensen will talk about The Little Heart Project

Thank you for helping support our ministry at Halfway Creek Lutheran Church!

## 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, October 10th at 6 PM*



**Noisy offering:** The September noisy offering went toward HCLC Youth Programming. We'll have a total in the November Currents! Let's keep making some noise!

In October we'll be supporting The Little Heart Project. Check out the article on page 5 for more information. Thank you for supporting this special ministry!

**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.



## **The Little Heart Project - our October Noisy Offering Recipient with a special presentation on Sunday, October 27**

Our October Noisy offering will go to The Little Heart Project. The Little Heart project was founded by our former office assistant, Kathleen Jensen. The Little Heart Project aims to prevent suicide one crocheted heart at a time through serendipitous words of encouragement. The Little Heart Project is people leaving small knitted or crocheted hearts with a note of encouragement wherever one goes; whether it be the grocery store, the library, the gas station, your hometown coffee shop or bar, the Empire State Building, or the Great Wall of China. In January 2024, Kathleen Jensen was recognized in the Wisconsin State Assembly as being a Hometown Hero for her work in the community.

Kathleen Jensen will also be joining us on Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup> to share her story and more information about The Little Heart Project at the 10 AM worship service and fellowship hour. To learn more, visit [thelittleheartproject.org](http://thelittleheartproject.org).

We hope that you will be able to join us!

## **TRUNK OR TREAT**



Trunk or Treat is back and is scheduled for Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> 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! A huge thanks to everyone signed up to help! Spread the word and invite your neighbors. We'll have over 20 trunks in the parking lot!! Almost double from last year!

## **VOLUNTEER 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 three people currently helping and are looking to add one more person 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.

## **ELCA WORLD HUNGER CELEBRATING 50**

*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. –Matthew 25:35*

ELCA World Hunger serves communities in over 60 countries around the world. The work of the ELCA World Hunger includes: food security, food pantries, soup kitchens, sustainable development, healthcare, income generation, clean water, education, health clinics and microloans.

ELCA World Hunger is a practical investment to help communities improve health and develop sustainable changes to impact the well-being of the community. They work with the local people to understand the local culture and use the systems/resources already in place in the community to support their efforts such as existing churches. The World Hunger program is not a quick fix. They walk side by side with the community, provide crisis relief but also stay for an extended period (sometimes years) to establish services and ensure success in developing long term results.

As of 2018 ELCA World Hunger was active in 61 countries and 43 states/territories. That is a total of 104.

**OUR HCLC CHALLENGE FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER:** collect a total of 208 food items. For every 2 food items we receive we will “eliminate” a country/state from the World Hunger list that is posted by the collection box in the church lobby. We invite you to please help us eliminate hunger throughout the world!

October’s food collection will focus on ELCA World Food Day, which is October 15<sup>th</sup>. Our October collection will be donated to local food pantries in Holmen.

November’s food collection will focus on a joint collection with a Holmen FFA student project. Donations will go to WAFER.



## FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

While you can donate any non-perishable food items to the Food Pantry throughout the month, you may also choose from items that have been indicated as most needed. At the time there is a need for **egg noodles, baking items, tuna helper, chili, spaghetti, pasta sauce, condiments** (pickles, mayonnaise, salad dressings, etc.),

## GIFT CARDS THAT GIVE BACK

Have you purchased gift cards from church or local organizations in the past? That program is still happening!! When you purchase physical gift cards or e-cards from RaiseRight (Scrip Cards), you are raising money for the organization you choose like Halfway Creek. You can use these gift cards to make purchases for your household needs like groceries, cleaning supplies, and clothes or give as gifts.

We will not have physical cards at church for purchase. Instead, you will be able to shop from home and purchase the gift cards you need from stores like Target and Home Depot to Festival Foods and Kwik Trip along with many department stores like Dicks Sporting Goods, TJMaxx and hundreds more. Remember, you can use these gift cards to make your everyday purchases!!

To set up your account and order using the RaiseRight app on your phone or order from your computer just click here:

**[Halfway Creek RaiseRight Quick Link](#)**

You may also go to the website [raiseright.com](https://raiseright.com) and use our Enrollment Code:  
8973A3374414L

If you have any questions, or need help getting started, give Shari a call in the office at 608-526-3701.



## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Hello Sunday School families! Are you excited for some Sunday School fun? We will be meeting the following Sundays:

October 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 AM.

If you have not had a chance to register, we'll have forms available at each session. We welcome all. You can even invite your friends to join you!!

## **CONFIRMATION**

Confirmation classes will meet on Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 PM. Classes will be one hour, and parents can pick up kids around 7:30 PM.

This year during Confirmation we'll be learning about the Old Testament. We'll be doing fun service projects and activities along with getting out into the community to help share our ministry with others. We will also focus on writing and creating faith statements for Confirmation Sunday.

Registration forms will be available at class, or you may download the form on our website: [\*\*REGISTRATION FORM\*\*](#)

We're looking forward to fun, faith-filled year!

## **GARDENING UPDATE**

The garden was officially closed at 9:42 AM on Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>! While the deer enjoyed the majority of the green beans, the group was able to harvest an abundance of vegetables including onions, radishes, peppers, cucumbers and tomatoes. Each year the produce is donated to the Salvation Army and the Onalaska Food Basket. The garden would not be possible without the help of Archie as he readies the soil and maintains the garden and Bill Achterkirch, who donates all of the plants. Thank you both! Thank you also to Nancy, Alice and Susan for tending to the garden weekly all summer!



## **BIBLE STUDY BEGINS OCTOBER 17**

Our monthly Bible study will resume on Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM. We'll continue with chapter 13 of Unafraid by Adam Hamilton. We'd love to have you join this group of learning and faith sharing! Contact the office or Nancy Holley for more information.

## **HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH CEMETERY NEWS**

I recently heard a song by Leanna Crawford based on Psalm 23: "[Still Waters](#)"

*"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want  
He leads me by still waters 'til my fears are gone  
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death  
O I know You are with me  
My father, my friend  
Your goodness and mercy will follow me all of my days  
I know by Your still waters I'm safe"*

I like the chorus as it makes me think about the peace and love felt within the Halfway Creek Cemetery. Walk among the headstones, sit inside the little church, listen to the birds or see the creek nearby. We are blessed knowing God's in charge.

For more details, or to reserve your resting place, call one of the 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.*

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

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

<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>26</b>
Steven Johnson	Daniel Ulrich	Joshua Johnson	Dave Betsinger
<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>28</b>
Leanne Erdman	Ben Fiers	Brooke Nelson	Isabella Medd Beville
<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>30</b>
Ronald Johnson	Jimmie Ann Gates	Mitchell Noel	Lori Anderson
<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>29</b>
Christopher Baxter	Luke Oines	Mary Crocker	Nicole Stumlin
<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>31</b>
Jason Pralle	Aiztdon Stumlin	Brianna Howe	Annie Fiers
<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>31</b>
Archie Achterkirch	Kate Pederson	Julie Hemp	Jamie Lohrentz
<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>31</b>
William Achterkirch	Ezekiel Finnell	Mike Yeiter	Mark Witte
<b>10</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>31</b>	
Kendra Bringe	Shari Ireland	Adam Pederson	
<b>11</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>31</b>	
Cary Heyer	Sue Kolbo	Aubrey Henthorn	
	<b>19</b>	<b>31</b>	
	Bridget Ruff	Rubianne Kinsman	
	<b>20</b>	<b>31</b>	
	Micah Hill	Jen Strangsalien	
	<b>21</b>		
	Sunny Wilson		




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*We pray for ... Owen Gilbertson, Adisyn Rhyme, 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, Beulah Sanders, Cary Heyer, Eric Erdman, Dawson Reed, Jenny Lee, Mary Dokkebakken, Karla Johnson, Alice Fonfara, Marie Jezova, Coats family*

## SERVING AND WORSHIP

	TIME	SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	OFFERING COUNTERS
<b>OCT 6</b>	10:00	Mike	Carrie Nicole	Rhonda Sonja
<b>OCT 13</b>	10:00	Stan	Bette	Bette Susan
<b>OCT 20</b>	10:00	Archie	Nancy	Jodi E
<b>OCT 27</b>	10:00	David C.	Bette	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!



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**

Sundays at 10:00 AM

**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

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