



CURRENTS

JANUARY 2025

Reach Out , Share Christ with All

Dearest Halfway Creek family,

Happy New Year!! As we wrap up Advent and Christmas, it is now time for Epiphany. Epiphany symbolizes the revelation of God's love, hope, and light through Jesus. It also represents the idea that God's grace is available to everyone, regardless of their social status, ethnicity, or nationality. This time reminds us to seek out Christ in unexpected places, and to be a beacon of light in the world.

Isaiah 60: 1-3

"Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

² See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the Lord rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.

³ Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Reflection: How do you serve as a beacon of light?

As we move into this new year, let us pray to be intentional about how we can be the light for others.

Blessings to you all!!

Patti Happel, HCLC Vision Board Co-President

January 2025 Currents

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Here are a couple of dates to add to your calendar!

Sunday, January 5, 2025—9:15 a.m. Please join us for Pancakes and PJ's followed by worship at 10am with Pastor Jim Arends

Sunday, January 19, 2025—10:00 a.m. worship with Pastor Kathryn Thompson, LuMin Campus Ministries.

Sunday, January 26, 2025— 10:00 a.m. welcome Jason Knipe to worship

Sunday, February 2, 2025—10:00 a.m. worship with Pastor Tara Shilts
Following worship please plan to stay for

- **the Annual Congregational Meeting**
- **the Annual Cemetery Meeting**
- **Congregational Potluck**



Sign up for potluck will be in the gathering space or follow this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0444A9AA22A3FC1-54168386-potluck>

KARUNA HOUSING

At Karuna Inc. we're thinking differently about housing solutions.

Karuna's mission is to build community by providing a supportive housing model that empowers people experiencing homelessness to cultivate their resilience, elevate their personal dignity, and find their own life worth living.

During January, Halfway Creek Lutheran Church, will be collecting money through our weekly noisy offering to support Karuna Housing in La Crosse.

For more information about this program, please visit their website at <https://www.karunahousing.org/> or contact them by phone: 608-360-6430

Business Mailing Address:

703 Farnam St, #207, La Crosse, WI 54601

MULTI-GENERATIONAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

2024—"Christmas Spirit: The Intervention" was our program theme this year on Dec. 8th. We enjoyed a skit, music by our youth and wonderful singing by our Worship Team and the Sunday School students. Thank you, Lynn, and everyone who helped make this program possible including the cast: Kathi, Patti, Ema, Rich and John; Calvin & Ester Smith for prelude music; Jordan and Blake Anderson for Offertory music, the worship team and Sunday School students, families and teachers!



CHRISTMAS EVE THANK YOU

We had two beautiful worship services for Christmas Eve this year. Thank you to Pastor Garman for presiding over worship and sharing the Good News and Great Joy of the birth of our Savior.



Thank you to Lynn and the worship team for the beautiful music along with Jon Strangstalien for his solo during the Prelude and Hannah Wegner during the offering. A huge thank you to EVERYONE who volunteered, prepared the church for members and guests, and those who worked behind the scenes. You are amazing!



Merry Christmas!

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Food Pantry Donations: Thank you for the end of the year food donations celebrating 50 years of ELCA World Hunger. In October and November we collected 178 food items that were donated to Holmen Lutheran, St. Elizabeth's food pantry and Wafer. We donated an additional 30+ items in December to meet our goal of 208 items! Thank you so much for your generosity and helping those who need food supplementation in our community. **For January** we will focus on collecting donations of: personal care items, dish soap, canned fruit.

Good Gifts contributions, between the purchase of ornaments and our noisy offering, we exceeded our goal of \$525! Thank you for your generosity and the immeasurable help this provides to those in need throughout the world.

New Project: In February we'll be hosting a multi-general service project as we gather to make cards for the National Guard Unit based out of Arcadia. They were deployed to the Middle East in September and will be there for a year. We have several connections to this unit. Watch email and E-News for more info.

We look forward to 2025 to continue supporting our mission: Reach Out, Share Christ with All.

If you have other ideas for service projects, please reach out to [Bette](#).

WI-FI HAS BEEN UPDATED

Thank you Wayne Atchley for updating and installing the new Wi-Fi network at HCLC. Our guest network does now require a password. Please find information on how to access the wi-fi in the gathering space.

Thank you also to Aaron Balow for keeping us updated on computer software in the building and installing a new capture device to help improve our livestream each week.

We welcome the tech support of our members. If you have an interest in helping with this aspect of our operations, please contact Shari in the office! Thank you!

WHAT IS AN ADRC?

Sometimes situations change so quickly, you do not know where to begin. Or you may be so overwhelmed with opinions, you are not sure whose to trust. Start with the ADRC!

ADRC stands for Aging & Disability Resource Center. ADRCs provide Wisconsin residents with unbiased information related to aging or living with a disability. The goal is to help people maintain their independence by connecting them with the right resources.

ADRCs serve older adults, persons with disabilities, as well as the families, friends, and caregivers who work with and care for them. ADRCs serve every county and tribe in Wisconsin. To find the county you are looking for, go to FindMyADRC.org. Every county has a reference book that can be a great resource to you.

La Crosse County: <http://www.lacrossecounty.org/adrc> or 608-785-5700

Trempealeau County: [https://co.trempealeau.wi.us/departments/service_departments/aging___disability_resource_center_\(adrc\)/index.php](https://co.trempealeau.wi.us/departments/service_departments/aging___disability_resource_center_(adrc)/index.php) or 800-273-2001

Jackson County: <https://www.co.jackson.wi.us/adrc> or 715-284-3978

Information provided at ADRCs is free of charge and may relate to resources such as:

- In-home personal care and nursing
- Housing options to include long term care and assisted living
- Housekeeping and chore services, i.e. snow removal or lawn care services
- Home modifications - might include a home visit to identify how to make your home safer
- Adaptive equipment
- Transportation
- Health, nutrition, and home-delivered meals
- Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security
- Caregiver support and respite
- Personal medical emergency response resources (you might know this as Lifeline)

Watch for upcoming education sessions for HCLC with the support of the ADRC.

2024 VISION BOARD

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

Next Vision Board meeting is on Thursday, January 9 at 6 PM

The December Vision Board Minutes may be found as an insert to this newsletter!

Annual Meeting: Please plan to attend the Halfway Creek Lutheran Church annual meeting on Sunday, February 2nd. *All articles for the Annual Report should be emailed to Shari at assistant@halfwaycreek.org by January 10th. Thank you!*

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.



Noisy offering: In January, we'll be supporting the unhoused through Karuna Housing. Check out the article in this newsletter for more information! On January 19th, we'll have a special offering for LuMin Campus Ministry as we welcome Pastor Kathryn Thompson to HCLC!

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CONFIRMATION

All ages will meet on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. on January 5 and 12! Confirmation (grades 6th–8th) will be meeting on the 15th and 22nd at 6:30 p.m. Please save the date to help make pizzas on February 5th at Journey Lutheran Church for our **3rd annual Superbowl Pizza Fundraiser!** Watch email and the weekly E-News for more information.

ALL ARE INVITED

Our annual Sunday School Pancakes and PJs party is happening on Sunday, Jan. 5th at 9:15 a.m. with a twist! The **WHOLE** Congregation is **INVITED!** Please join us for some pancakes, sausages, milk and juice, followed by worship at 10 a.m.



SUPPLY PASTORS

Thank you for welcoming all of our supply pastors and speakers we've had the past month! In December we welcomed Pastor Wayne, Pastor Garman and Pastor Marvin Jonasen.



Pastor Wayne



Pastor Garman



Pastor Jonasen

PASTORAL CARE

If you or a family member are in need of pastoral care, don't hesitate to call the office during business hours (608-526-3701) or Patti Happel after hours (608-317-9525). We will help you with your needs or direct you to one of our on-call pastors. We are grateful to have local pastors serving us in emergencies. If you have any questions at all, do not hesitate to call. God bless you.

CARING TREE

Reflecting on the Christmas season.....it is a time of both giving and receiving. To the many people that gave of their time, shared a gift or monetary donation, we are most grateful. Together we did His work in hopes of making the holiday season a little brighter for someone else. Blessings to each of you!

To the recipients, it is our hope they felt the hope, peace, love, and joy of the advent season. There were 71 families (299 people) from the Holmen School District that received Caring Tree gifts and/or care packages. A total of 316 gifts were given to 158 children (2 gifts per child). May each of them feel His presence in their lives.

Sincere thanks from the Holmen Lutheran Church Service Ministry Team

HALFWAY CREEK CEMETERY NEWS

As the snow and cold silently surround us, our thoughts turn to life and death, to the past and the future, to what we've lost and what we've gained. "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven ..." (Ecclesiastes 3:1). Life is a passage through various times like the seasons of the year. Welcome to 2025 from your Halfway Creek Lutheran Church Cemetery Trustees.

The annual meeting will follow the church's annual meeting February 2, 2025. We will ratify the proposed constitutional changes and bylaw updates presented at the special meeting in September. 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). May the New Year bring you peace!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



If your birthday is missing, please notify the office.

1 Tuck Kinsman	9 Paula Hammes	13 Zachary Mueller	23 Kathie Severson
3 Ryder Sherry	Noah Lepsch	14 Mary Jane Nelson	25 Chance Brandau
4 Carrie Payne	Dewey Crocker	Trevor Plomedahl	26 Erica Nichols
5 Mia Bartnik	Edward Scholze	Joy Jandt	Matt Rink
Joe Feltes	Jordyn Schreiber	Jordyn Stasiak	Camden Thiele
6 Keith Casberg	11 Tyler Sherry	18 Tammy Howe	27 Bryistol Pralle
Petra Nedoba	Matthew Barbour	19 Donna Anderson	28 Corey Hendrickson
7 Tonya Holley	12 Cody Smith	20 Erica Nichols	31 Matt Rink
John Stasiak	Robert Lee	22 Rylend Tuquero	29 Camden Thiele



We pray for friends and family of those we have lost this past year: Jeff Rose, Ron Hanson, Rod Sutherland, Curt Nedoba, Judy Campbell, Mike Nedoba, Raymond Lee, Marie Jezova

We pray for Megan Sacia Ulrich, Perry Voshage, Owen Gilbertson, Adisyn Rhyme, Kannon Happel, 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 Dokkebaken, Karla Johnson, Alice Fonfara, the Coats family.

SERVING AND WORSHIP

	WORSHIP TIME	SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	OFFERING COUNTERS
JAN 5	10:00	Mike Martin	Carrie Nicole	Rhonda Sonja
JAN 12	10:00	Stan Schwier	Bette	Bette Susan J
JAN 19	10:00	Archie	Nancy	Jodi Eide
JAN 26	10:00	Joe Anderson	Bette	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!

We thank David Chase for his years of service as a Sexton! We appreciate the time you spent opening the church, making sure the temperature was right and ringing the bell! Thanks again!

We are in need of a couple more Sextons to help once a month! Would you please consider volunteering for this important role? Training is available. Thank you!

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

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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