



CURRENTS

APRIL 2025

Reach Out , Share Christ with All

Dear Halfway Creek family,

Happy Spring!!

There is so much to be thankful for this time of year!! Sunshine, warmer temperatures, and so many signs of rebirth and new life, couple with this the Lenten/Easter season, sure gives us a lot to look forward to and be grateful for. I am so happy to see the grass, flowers and trees beginning to bloom.

With that, we are also blooming as a congregation. I have begun my role as Synod Authorized Minister (SAM), and I am looking forward to this journey we are on. I'm sure there will be some trial and error, as we work to figure out exactly how this looks like for us, but the anticipation of it all gives me renewed hope. I welcome you all to stop in, anytime, to visit or just have a cup of coffee.....my door is always open, and my phone is always on.

Speaking of being thankful, I would like to say a big "Thank You" to all of you!! Thank you for the support and encouragement, and for entrusting me to look after your spiritual well-being. Thank you, also, for the beautiful service and fellowship for my installation. I received many compliments, about our church and the wonderful people here, from family and friends who joined us that day. I know we've been through a lot as a congregation, but it is so wonderful to be reminded of the many good things we have to offer.

Ephesians 1:16— " I have not stopped giving thanks for you,
remembering you in my prayers."

Blessings to you all ~

Patti Happel, Synod Authorized Minister

APRIL CALENDAR INCLUDING HOLY WEEK

Wednesday, April 2—5:45 p.m. Lenten Meal; 6:30 p.m. Service

Friday, April 4—6:00—10:00 p.m. Youth Night Out (grades 6-12)

Sunday, April 6— 10:00 a.m. Worship; Pastor Kuespert presiding

Wednesday, April 9—5:45 p.m. Lenten Meal; 6:30 p.m. Service

Sunday, April 13—10:00 a.m. Worship; Pastor Wayne Van Kauwenbergh presiding

Thursday, April 17—9:30 a.m. Bible Study

Maundy Thursday, April 17: 6:30 p.m. worship

Good Friday, April 18: 6:30 pm service

Noon: Crosswalk—meet at Halfway Creek bandshell

1 PM: Community Worship at Holmen Lutheran

Easter Sunday, April 20: 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

Sunday, April 27: 10:00 a.m. Worship; Pastor Garman presiding

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, May 4: 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Sunday

Tuesday, May 6: 5:00 -6:30 PM Life Planning Seminar at HCLC; catered dinner.

Please RSVP to Margaret at 608-397-8672.

Friday, May 16: Versiti Blood Drive at HCLC; 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.; sign-up online

[HERE](#).

Synod Assembly, June 6-8. Worship on Sunday, June 8th will be at Riverside Park in La Crosse. No worship at HCLC that day.

**HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH
VISION BOARD MEETING MINUTES - March 13, 2025**

Present: Patti Happel, Amy Noel, Carrie Payne, Bette Pedretti,, Nicole Stumlin and Wayne Atchley, Nancy Holley, Michelle Olson

Absent: Andrea Baxter, Ema Nedoba and Olivia Nedoba

Guests: Shari Ireland and Jodi Anderson

Call to order at 6:04. Devotion based on Hebrews 10: 24-25 lead by Bette Pedretti
Approval of Agenda: Motion made and 2nd to approve revised agenda. Motion passed.

Actions Since Last Meeting:

- 2/20/25 – Approval of February 10, 2025 minutes.

Financial Report:

- We recently received a generous \$20,000 donation from The Hutson Family for debt reduction. Please see poster in the gathering space. THANK YOU!!!!
- Noisy Offering:
 - January - Karuna House: \$178.93
 - February – Quilters: \$285.36
 - March – Coulee Region Immigration Task Force
 - April - Support congregation outreach ministry (supplies, mailings, etc.)
 - May - Holmen’s Hope Summer Lunch Program
 - June - Gardeners who work all summer and provide vegetables to area shelters
- January and February financial reports reviewed by Jodi Anderson. By the end of March our mortgage will be approximately \$128,800. Loan comes due in April 2026.

OFFICE UPDATE - Shari Ireland

Thank you for your prayers and support after my recent back injury and your willingness to let me work from home.

Supply pastors are scheduled through May 4, 2025

Baptism on March 16, 2025 for Tate Grant Burnikel, son of Kyle and Paige. Pastor Jim Arends will be presiding.

MUSIC & LITURGY

- Microphones will be purchased soon and we will ensure that they connect to the SIMS system for broadcasting
- Total cost of replacing the old sound system is approximately \$3500. Will do a fund raiser later this spring or summer hoping to take minimal money out of dedicated funds to cover cost.

OLD BUSINESS

- Membership roster update - You each received a copy of the letter that went out February 18th to individuals who have not been actively involved in our church community for minimally last 2 years. A second communication is planned for anyone who did not respond.
- Closing Action Plan/Legacy Committee - John Daily has agreed to lead this project.
- IT Team Training - Planned soon before or after an upcoming church service. Thank you Wayne for streamlining and updating the area used for PowerPoint and streaming.
- Reminder of Council Retreat – Trinity Lutheran in Sparta – March 22, 2025, 9-1.
- Still looking for synod Assembly attendees.
- Outreach:
 - Provided water and protein bars with a note welcoming them to our worship service at Jazzercise classes the last week of February. Very well received.
 - Operation Mail - Care packages and cards went out to Brooklyn Cook and the Arcadia group National Guard Unit.
 - Pizza fundraiser income of \$1198. People really enjoyed the pizzas this year.
- Upcoming
 - Cookies for LuMin Campus Ministry - April 2nd
 - Youth Night out on April 4th
 - Life Planning Seminar with Fredrickson Funeral Home on May 6 with a meal. The community will be invited.
 - Blood Drive - Friday, May 16th from 9 - 2

- Will provide water and donated cookie to the area 1st responders later this spring. Wayne will assist with that.
- Health Fair - Will begin planning for the fall.

NEW BUSINESS

- Granted a request from the Heller Family to celebrate a 50th Wedding Anniversary here at HCLC on July 12, 2025.
- Need to do more planning on how we welcome and recognize new members.
- Will ask each staff member to review their current job description and then approve updates at a future VB meeting.
- Future work - Review of all current policies.
- Did not support moving the stove to the nursery area at this time.
- Will get an estimate for curtains or blinds for the large windows in the gathering area.
- Approved a request to move the garden to an area adjacent to the parking lot for better access.
- SAFETY AND SECURITY
 - #1 priority is a doorbell for the front door, so we can keep it locked when staff is here. Nicole will get a bid for the electrical work that needs to be done to accomplish that.
 - Will seek resources from the Synod for creating a safety plan for the church.

Closing with Lord's Prayer

Adjourned at 7:48

Next meeting(s): Thursday April 10, 2025 – 6pm

FINANCIALS THROUGH FEB 2025

	<u>Total Offering</u>	<u>Rent Income</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Difference</u>
January-25	\$11,212.00	\$2,150.00	\$13,676.56	-\$314.56
February-25	\$10,732.00	\$2,150.00	\$11,094.45	\$1,787.55
Totals	\$21,944.00	\$4,300.00	\$24,771.01	\$1,472.99

Installation of Patti Happel as our Synod Authorized Minister on March 9, 2025.



VISION BOARD

President

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

Treasurer

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

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5445nanh@gmail.com
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Nicole Stumlin
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608-769-3642

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608-317-1638

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michelle@abeeinc.com
(608)780-9802

Olivia Nedoba
Ema Nedoba

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noelprairie@icloud.com
608-386-0299

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

Synod Authorized Minister

Patti Happel
pastor@halfwaycreek.org
608-317-9525

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

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO ATTEND SYNOD ASSEMBLY

“For the Beauty of the Earth” - Climate Addition

June 6 - 7, 2025 (Friday eve and Saturday). Place: Westby Coon Prairie Lutheran Church

June 8, 2025 - Worship for everyone at Riverside Park

What is Synod Assembly?

Synod Assembly is an annual gathering of elected congregation voting members, leaders, pastors/staff, and volunteers from all 73 of our ministry sites in the La Crosse Area. It is a time where we intentionally walk together, to cultivate life-giving relationships rooted in God's love through times of worship, prayer, learning, conversation, offering, meals, service and highlighting our interdependent ministry relationship as we support mission partners, carry out synodical and church-wide initiatives, work to end hunger, respond to disaster and emergency needs, and heed the call to be a church engaged in all the world.

If interested, leave a message in the office or reach out to a member of the Vision Board.

OUTREACH MINISTRY

THANK YOU FROM BROOKLYNN COOK AND OWEN GILBERTSON. Our care packages arrived for both of them. A big thank you from both of them! They are thankful for such wonderful support from our community.

Jazzercisers appreciated the water and protein bars in March!

Kid's Night Out, Friday April 4, 6pm-10pm at Halfway Creek Lutheran Church. For confirmation age and high school students. Bring a friend. Enjoy ping pong, corn hole, card and board games, other activities and of course, FOOD!

REMINDER: Life Planning Seminar at HCLC, **Tuesday May 6th, 5pm-6:30pm**. Come hear a short presentation on the benefits of funeral pre-planning and have a **FREE meal** and fellowship. Open to public so **invite friends and family. RSVP by April 30th** to Margaret at Fredrickson Funeral Home 608-397-8672.

Save A Life, Give Some Blood!

A great opportunity is just around the corner for HCLC to make a difference in our community. We will be hosting a Blood Drive on **Friday, May 16th, 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at HCLC**. We have done this in the past and have had a great response. So please spread the word to family and friends.

Versiti Blood Center is the sole blood supplier to all the hospital systems in the Coulee Region. This means that our donations go out to treat family, friends and community first. Each donation received ensures enough blood to meet tomorrow's needs. Its an ongoing cycle and ongoing need. Approximately 38% of people are eligible to donate blood, but only less than 5% do.

In one hour you can save 3 lives. The actual procedure of donating your blood takes about 10 minutes, but there is some preliminary screening and a little recovery time for refreshments afterward. Please consider donating, please ask others in your family/friends to consider donating! Sign up online at

https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/11611176

You will also receive a free meal/snacks including BBQ, cookies, beverages and other snacks. For more information about donating please go to <https://versiti.org/>

In the Month of May, we'll conduct an Appreciation of our local firefighters, police and EMS. This will include an opportunity for all cookie bakers to contribute to our chance to give back to the community and appreciate our emergency workers. There will be a sign up for cookie donations coming out this month.

COOKIES ON CAMPUS—THANK YOU

Thanks to all our bakers who made cookies for our local college students! LuMin campus ministries will give away the cookies on the UW-La Crosse campus near the clock tower on Wednesday, April 2! The students love the homemade treats and the cookies are gone quickly! Thanks again for supporting this ministry.

SUPPLY PASTORS

Thank you for welcoming all of our supply pastors we've had the past month! In March we welcomed Pr Tara Shilts, Bishop Malpica, Pr Arends, Pr Kuespert and Pastor Wayne along with Patti Happel as our Synod Authorized Minister.



Bishop Malpica



Pastor Ralph Kuespert



Pastor Jim Arends

HOLMEN LUTHERAN FOOD PANTRY

Food Pantry Requests for April: Suddenly Salad, Beef Stew, Potato Sides, Minute Rice. Please no green beans, macaroni and cheese, tuna, black beans, garbanzo beans or corn, due to ample supplies of these items. Please bring items to HCLC and we can deliver them to the food pantry! Thank you!

GIVING AT HCLC

We have another option for giving at HCLC. You can use Paypal—just search for Halfway Creek Lutheran Church or scan this QR code! Thank you for helping us further our mission.



GARDENING GROUP

The gardening group is looking forward to another fruitful (or veggie-ful) year! The garden is moving to the flat area on the north side of the lower parking lot. It will be more accessible for everyone. If you head over that way and see some weeds, you are welcome to tend to the garden! Thanks in advance to everyone helping prep the land and get it planted later this spring.

QUILTERS

Quilters wrapped up their sessions by completing 31 quilts in February and March. Thank you to everyone who made the quilt tops, sewed them together and tied them. They all turned out so beautifully and will help keep their recipients warm!

NOISY OFFERING

In March our noisy offering supported the Coulee Region Immigration Task Force. With only one week left to collect money, we had already counted \$201.77. Thank you for making a difference.

In April we will be collecting money to help fund our outreach ministries here at HCLC. If you have any ideas for additional outreach we can do, please contact Bette Pedretti. Let's keep making some noise!

CONFIRMATION & SUNDAY SCHOOL

All ages will meet for Sunday School on Sunday April 6 and 13 at 9:15 a.m. We will be practicing music for Easter.

Confirmation (grades 6th–8th)

Apr 4—Night Out (see pg. 13)

April 16—8th grade ONLY will meet to write rough draft of Faith Statements.

April 23 and 30—regular class time

May 4—Confirmation Sunday

BAPTISM

We welcomed Tate Grant Burnikel, son of Kyle and Paige, to Halfway Creek Lutheran Church through the Sacrament of Baptism on March 16. Pastor Jim Arends presided over the service. *We thank God for the gift of baptism, which affirms our faith, washes us clean with God's love and forgiveness, welcomes us to the vast community of siblings in Christ and grants us a new life of service and sharing the gospel wherever we go. Amen.*



HALFWAY CREEK CEMETERY NEWS

Happy Easter! The weather will be warming up and the Halfway Creek Lutheran Church Cemetery welcomes you to visit and feel the spirit of your loved ones buried there. New life awaits all of us, share the Good News.

Matthew 28:5-8

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." So, the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

Please consider stepping up to help with the lawn care this summer. We have a family interested but more help will be greatly appreciated.

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 one of the cemetery trustees:

Dan Brudahl, 608-526-6950

Mark Witte, 608-317-0183

Hannah Scholze, 608-797-9388

Your cemetery needs your support. Remember Halfway Creek Lutheran Church Cemetery when you're making your charitable contributions — and please consider a donation to the cemetery.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will be asking the children to sing on Easter Sunday, April 20, at the 10:00 a.m. service. This will be a wonderful way to wrap up this Sunday School year. They will be practicing with Lynn during Sunday School time the first two Sundays in April. When the kids sang at Christmas time, our congregation loved it!!

Also, if there are any families looking to have their child receive their First Communion, please contact either Shari (assistant@halfwaycreek.org) or myself. Once we know how many are interested, we can choose a date.

Please feel free to email or call with any questions or concerns.

Blessings, Patti Happel, Synod Authorized Minister, pastor@halfwaycreek.org

Sunday School students are encouraged to return their World Hunger piggy banks by April 6th. Thank you!

**CONFIRMATION
AND
HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS**

**YOU ARE
INVITED!!**

**RSVP:
608-385-9968
CALL OR TEXT WITH YOUR
NAME**



Confirmation & High School

YOUTH NIGHT OUT

**Friday, April 4, 2025
6 to 10 p.m.**

Halfway Creek Lutheran Church
Bring a friend if you like and join us for
Ping Pong, Corn Hole, Cards and other
board games or a movie!
There will be food, of course.
R.S.V.P to Rich by Wed. March 26:
Text/call 608-385-9968 or
Richpedretti@outlook.com

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

If your birthday is missing, please notify the office.

1	12	19	26
Nicole Barbour	Cohen Lee	Jennifer Kruckow	Dawn Bandoli
3	Kennedy Strangstalien	Wyatt Oines	27
Noah Hanson	14	21	Rebecca Hauser
Gregory Temp	Alexa Lautenschlager	Kathi Hagel	28
4	15	Chantel Temp	Ryan Olson
Rachael Hauser	Kristi Johnson	22	Cartyr Stumlin
Trinity Horstman	16	Gabriel Hansen	29
6	Erica Daily	Allison Oines	Audrey Bringe
Rhonda Britton	Cora Klich	Ethan Oines	Lars Oines
Doug Gordon	17	Calvin Smith	
Zach Johnson	Marcie McDonald	23	
Cassie Tremain-Tolvstad	18	Savanna Britton	
8	Andrea Baxter	Philip Johnson	
Melody Bartnik		Joanne Mihm	
		Randy Tuquero	



IN OUR PRAYERS

We pray for friends and family of those who have passed: Charles Severson, Ray Cook, Madilyn Vang, Jeff Rose, Ron Hanson, Rod Sutherland, Curt Nedoba, Judy Campbell, Mike Nedoba, Raymond Lee, Marie Jezova

We pray for Mike & Pat Martin, Laurie Noelke, Brooklynn Cook, 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
APR 6	10:00	Mike	Carrie Nicole	Jodi E Sonja
APR 13	10:00	Stan	Bette	Bette Susan J
APR 17	6:30 PM Maundy Thurs	Mike		
APR 18	6:30 PM Good Friday	Mike		
APR 20	8:00	Archie	Nancy	Rhonda
EASTER	10:00			
APR 27	10:00	Joe A	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 .

Volunteer Clipboards are also in the gathering space.

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!

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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