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Barb Rudy at the Lutefisk Dinner being interviewed for Channel 8 News

HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA JANUARY 25, 2009

- Call to Order
- Devotions
- Approval of Minutes
 - January 20, 2008
- Reports to the congregation
- Comments/Questions from the floor on annual reports submitted
- Adoption of the 2009 Budget
- Elections
- Other business
- Adjournment
- Closing Prayer



Hundreds of meatballs are prepared for the Lutefisk Dinner!

HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH CHURCH LEADERSHIP/COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pastor	526-2889	Jean Pagliaro
President		Vacant
Vice-President		Vacant
Secretary	526-2214	Elisa Moss
Treasurer	526-3781	Gaye Johnson
Financial Secretary	857-3566	Kathie Severson
Finance Trustee		Vacant
Stewardship Trustee	526-4224	Lila Sutherland
Property Trustee	769-7055	John Noel
Worship Deacon	526-9840	Barb Rudy
Evangelism Deacon	526-1068	Arlene Prichett
Social Ministry Deacon		Vacant
Christian Education Director	797-2895	Brenda Herman
Youth Director	526-4231	Lee Anderson

PERSONNEL

Organist/Director of Music	526-3115	Lynn Wegner
Altar Guild	526-3597	Diane Jostad
Custodian	526-3241	Rich Pedretti
Church Secretary	526-6606	Jayne Oliver

HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 20, 2008

Meeting called to order by Amy Noel at 11:40 a.m. with 54 members in attendance.

Distributed any reports that were not included in printing of annual report.

Devotions led by Pastor Jean.

Secretary's report of the January 27, 2008 annual meeting read. Motion to approve by Jean Latham and 2nd by Ruth Scholze. Motion carried. Motion to also approve May 20, 2007 congregational meeting minutes by Jean Latham and 2nd by Ruth Scholze. Motion carried.

Amy Noel and Pastor Jean summarized '07 church year. Listening sessions successful in trying to solve and challenge us with concerns of congregation. Continue to have lively and gospel related worship services to carry on the theme of 'Reaching out to share Christ with all'. Annual report had good feedback.

Have made progress on Debt Reduction. Discussion on envelope verbiage and opportunity to use Simply Giving more effectively in planning church spending.

Elvern Nyseth suggested possibly a donation to Holmen Fire Dept. and 1st Responder donation. With discussion, Amy noted that the council will take action on this suggestion.

Proposal for membership item withdrawn from Annual Meeting as membership info had and can only be changed by synod. Will need to have a better process for membership issues within our church by possibly having a committee from our congregation address issues of this.

Addressing the date of annual meeting under Constitution of C-10.01.01 currently states 'The annual meeting of this congregation shall be held on the third Sunday of January'. Proposed change would state 'The annual meeting of this congregation shall be held on the last Sunday of January.' Conversation was had on this item with pros and cons discussed. Jean Latham made a motion 'The annual meeting of this congregation shall be held on the last Sunday of January.' 2nd by Thelma Severson. Motion carried.

Reports of the Congregation:

Endowment Fund – Gaye Johnson .

Air Conditioning Fund – Gaye Johnson

Bell Choir - Barb Rudy

Christian Education Director – Brenda Herman

Discussion on the 2008 budget for adoption. Motion to approve the 2008 budget: 1st Bill Achterkirch and 2nd by Morgan Jostad. Motion carried.

Thank you to all who served on church council this past year.

Elisa Moss, Council Secretary

PASTOR'S REPORT

It is hard to believe that 2008 is already over. But what a year it has been in the life of this congregation! Halfway Creek continues to live into its mission statement, "Reaching Out to Share Christ with All". Our congregation has been focusing on this mission statement in all the ministries that we do, and others have been blessed because of it.

Here are just a few things that have happened over the last year:

1. We are "Reaching Out" with our worship

Worship attendance is increasing. We have increased our attendance from 89 to 96 people each week, and there are ample opportunities for people to serve in worship. Our worship team and choir continue to be active, and it is always a joy to hear the gifts of music that they bring. One added volunteer opportunity in the coming months will be the position of Assisting Minister during both services. The Assisting Minister will read the Intercessions, the Offertory Prayer, and assist with preparing the altar for communion. More details about that will be coming soon!

We have many children in worship now. This is wonderful and children are always welcome at worship. I enjoy the children's sermons each week and I am always amazed with the insightful (and sometimes amusing) responses from the children.

One addition to the 10:30 am service will soon be a nursery that is available to all children preschool age and under. This is not to discourage participation in worship, but is to offer hospitality to families with children who simply need a break during worship. The children will come back upstairs for communion and then the children's sermon will be right at the end of the service.

2. We are "Reaching Out" with our ministries

In the early fall we held an event called Halfway Hodgepodge that featured all of the ministries of this congregation. Many people were surprised to come downstairs after worship and see the entire basement filled with tables set up with all the ministry opportunities available. This is a sign that things are happening here and that we are serving Christ in many ways.

New ministries that have happened here over the last year are a new Bible study group, a Laughter Group and a Moms Group. These ministries meet the needs of people in our congregation, but also continue to look at outreach possibilities. One area of ministry that I would like to see grow is with the men's ministries. If you have any ideas about that, please let me know!

This congregation gives of their time and money. Mission giving is up this year. We have been able to help many people in this area thanks to the Local Assistance Fund. The Youth Group fund is now thriving. We have served organizations like Lutheran Disaster Response and Youth Encounter and the Salvation Army. Our confirmation students are each required to complete 30 hours of service before May and they have been doing a great job with this.

3. We are “Reaching Out” with our talents

One of the great joys of being a pastor is being able to witness God’s people sharing their gifts for the glory of God. We have a congregation with so many gifts to share! We have everything from quilters to people who care for the grounds to people who can cook delicious pancakes and lutefisk (did I just use the word “delicious” to describe lutefisk?). There are people who offer a warm welcome to visitors and who bring communion to our homebound members. And we have youth who volunteer at many places, and seven who will be going to New Orleans this summer to reach out to people still struggling to recover from Hurricane Katrina. I am excited to see how our collective gifts as a congregation will continue to “Reach Out”.

Finally, I want to express my most sincere gratitude to the church council for their efforts, especially to Amy Noel and Ruth Scholze, who will both be ending their terms as President and Vice President. It has been a blessing to work with them and the entire council. Matt and I want to also express our thanks to the entire congregation in sharing the joy of welcoming Logan into our family! My maternity leave was a wonderful time to spend with Logan, and it is a sign of a healthy congregation when worship attendance continues to be strong, even in the absence of the pastor.

Let’s rejoice in the past year, and challenge ourselves as a congregation to continue to “Reach Out” to serve others.

Blessings,

Pastor Jean



2008 Confirmation Retreat to Sugar Creek Bible Camp

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Average	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Spring	125	109	107	107	121	101	93	109
Summer	86	91	89	79	68	75	69	70
Fall	119	109	122	112	110	81	98	107
Year	113	104	112	100	101	86	89	96

Sundays in 2008: 52

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS, 2008

	Baptized	Baptized and Confirmed
Membership December 31, 2007	385	280

Members Received in 2008

By Baptism	8	
By Transfer from other ELCA Congregations	20	10
Total Received	28	10

Youth Confirmed		7
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Members Removed in 2008

By Death	4	4
By Transfer	8	6
Removed for other reasons and/or at their request	0	0
Total Removed	12	10

Membership December 31, 2008	401	287
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Members Received By Baptism

Logan Matthew Pagliaro	03-Aug-08
Preston Paul Ammerman	14-Sept-08
Halas Mark Wolff	30-Mar-08
Brianna Catherine Rose Howe	20-Apr-08
Curtis Scott Booth	26 Oct 08
Kim Marie Booth	26 Oct 08
Audrey Kaye Bringe	02 Nov 08
Jon Steven Olsen	02 Nov 08

New Members Received

Gregory Temp, Chantel Temp, Rachael Temp, Olivia Temp, Diego Vargas, Troy Lau, Connie Lau, Emily Lau, Malvin Howe, Tammy Howe, Brianna Howe, Gregory Britton, Rhonda Britton, Savannah Britton, Kendra Bringe, Alexa Lautenschlager, Brett Kaye, Kelsey Henningson-Kaye, Warren Booth, Kim Booth, Christine Booth, Jessie Booth and Curtis Booth.

Weddings

Keith Casberg and Dana Hefti	18-Oct-08
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Confirmation, May 4, 2008

Laura Ann Arnold, Cole Wade Hoffman, Luther William Miller, Alex Joseph Pedretti, Dylan Jeffery Severson, Ellen Kay Stankey and Samantha Dawn Stenson.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The second year of my presidency has been just as busy as the first. Halfway Creek continues to be a busy place. I am extremely thankful for the energy and commitment I experience from every member of the Council as they give their time and talents in the leadership of HCLC.

As a council we have kept the same four goals give direction to our activities as a council.

- **Financial and council transparency.** We have answered questions, put information into the newsletter, and lead this congregation with God's support.
- **Involving others in ministry of HCLC.** One of the highlights of the year was the Halfway Hodge Podge. It was an opportunity to remind the congregation of current ministries and introduce new ones.
- **Lively and gospel-oriented worship services.** Be sure to check the website for some of Pastor Jean's sermons. I can reread the words I heard on Sunday and take away a new message. We continue to welcome new members and visitors.
- **Continuing to "Reach out to share Christ with all."**
 - The time, talent, and financial resources we have given to missions have grown from last year. I am very thankful and proud of this congregation for those gifts.
 - One of the biggest projects for the council this past year was the establishment of an Endowment Fund. These funds will carry our mission into the future.
 - One of the projects moving into 2009 is to send out regular communication about church activities and needed prayers. With so much going on, you can miss a lot if you aren't in worship.

In October, the Council invited Pastor Hallemeier back for another listening session. She facilitated sessions for us back in February of 2007. Her advice to us then was to forgive and talk to each other. We needed to heal ourselves before a new pastor joined us. We had many stories to tell of our successes. The best part of the conversation was looking forward to the possibilities and our future. I leave that planning to the next council president. Although we are a congregation with many traditions, we are also a congregation with energy and vision for the possibilities of the future. May I leave you with these thoughts....

Celebrate Every Day

*Make every day a day to celebrate life and be thankful. Look to every day as a day of new beginnings, opening you heart to positive hope and unlimited potential. Take time to pull yourself away from all the noise and just look around you. Take inventory. Appreciate those who have enhanced the quality of your life, and remember that they have been a gift to you. Also remember that you're a gift to them. Be grateful for the choices you've made, both good and bad. Accept your mistakes; you can't change them anyway. Apply what you've learned and go on. Use these lessons to help you with your other decisions in life. Appreciate yourself and your own uniqueness. Make every day special. Own it. Enjoy it. Bask in the glory of life. **Thanks be to God!***

Amy Noel, Council President

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I have had the privilege serving as Vice President under Amy Noel these past two years on council. I have only covered a few meetings in her absence, but as an executive committee we are committed to being organized and prepared for each monthly council meeting. We strive to live out the mission statement in supporting the work of Halfway Creek's congregation as we "reach out to share Christ with all."

The executive committee conducted an evaluation of Pastor Jean this fall concluding that it has been a wonderful year with her ministry and we hope and pray many more years for her service here at Halfway Creek Lutheran Church.

The ease of maternity leave for Pastor Jean was a great success and all the support of the visiting pastors reflected a positive attendance for summer worship.

The congregation this past year has much to be grateful for, including the wonderful worship experiences around church festivals, Harvest Sunday, Thankoffering Service, the Lutefisk Supper, Strawberry Social, bazaar, and Hodgepodge Sunday. Additionally, we are very grateful for the work of lay people bringing new ministries to light like the Laughter Group, Mom's Group, the Bell choir, and hopefully a Men's Group or Singles Group in the future.

The council revisited the "Listening Session" with Pastor Hallemeier in October. Points were discussed as to where Halfway Creek is now and what lies ahead for the future. We are grateful for the ministry of Pastor Jean, but as a congregation we need to continue to be active in worship, inviting others to worship, support the time, talents and tithing needs of the church, and all members need to continue to reach out to share Christ!

The mission statement "Reaching out to share Christ with all" is shared with the Stepping Stones project where many members donated stones "in honor of" and "in memory of" loved ones. All stones will be placed in the Outdoor worship area this spring. The stones donated were:

Faith-in memory of Norma Hoff-Miedema & Henry Hoff by Lila & Rod Sutherland

Peace-in memory of Oscar & Helga Lee by Ed & Doris Brudos

Love-in memory of Sherman Witte By Sue & Ed Swackhamer, Sarah Swackhamer & Peighton Adkins, and Rachel, Derrick, Lillie & Mylee Frederikson

Joy-in memory of Millard & Ruth Jostad by Ruth & Morgan Jostad

Faith-in memory of Julian & Emma Romskog by Ruth & Morgan Jostad

Hope-in honor of Philip & Karla Johnson, Kristi Johnson, and Angela & Joshua Kinsman-honoring the Philip Johnson Family

Grace-in memory of Marianne Johnson by Doug Johnson

Patience-in memory of Gale Severson by Thelma Severson, Richard & Pamela Gran, Jeffrey & Kathie Severson, and Charles & Bonnie Deutsch

Love-in honor Pastor Jean by Joyce & Howard Woods

4 smaller stones presented by Rich & Bette Pedretti and Ruth & Hannah Scholze

Ruth Scholze, Vice-President

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

We certainly have had a busy and exciting year in 2008. We have been working this the “Living the Good News” curriculum. This curriculum worked well for our 2007-2008 program that we brought it back in the Fall of 2008 and are continuing to use this curriculum.

We have also brought in a **new way of learning** our memory work in September. Susie Johnson has been moving through our class grades and working with each one to learn our prayers to the Ten Commandments, the Apostle’s Creed, Lord’s Prayer and the Books of the Bible with the “Together in Faith” curriculum. Once the memory work has been completed that grade presents their accomplishment in Church.

During our **Lenten Challenge** we were able to raise 163.05 lbs. of non-perishable food donated to our local food pantry. As a reward, we were able to have a limousine ride donated by Greg Imhoff of Luxury Limo’s from Onalaska. We were able to send 1 adult and 8 children on a limousine ride to McDonald’s for breakfast and back. Our driver was very kind and thoughtful to not leave any children behind at McDonald’s.

We sent **Christmas cards** with letters, wreath ornaments and Chex Mix snacks to Zach Arnold, Matthew Noel and his troop serving in Iraq over the Holidays. All the cards were signed by all the students, the letters were written by some of the students and staff, the snacks were made by the Nursery thru 1st grade students. What a wonderful way to show our support for what these young men do for our Country. God bless them all.

Our **Christmas program** in December was a huge hit. We had the traditional Christmas story of Jesus’ birth that was orchestrated by Barb Rudy and Lynn Wegner. The kids did a marvelous job and I was even able to hear them sing from the back of the church. Great Job!

My visions for the Sunday School Program besides getting more kids involved in the program is to be able to grow towards the construction of a building for the Sunday school. We are hopeful that our program continues to grow and that the kids continue to get the education they deserve. With fellowship being a strong and much needed event in our church, the Sunday School is in need of their own space.

As always, your continued support of the Sunday School program is very much appreciated. There are several ways to provide your support of the program. I also need to send out a thank you to the staff that continues to show up every Sunday and work hard at making sure the kids build their faith.

Thank you,
Brenda Herman
Christian Education Director



2008 Christmas Program

SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR END STATEMENT

July '08 balance \$1765.95

Expenses

Beginning Curriculum \$83.70
Bibles \$283.71
(Visa \$82.23 Augsburg \$201.48)
Postage \$10.00
Iraq Troop Postage \$88.20
Festival Foods \$20.24
Christmas Program \$10.00
Total Expenses \$495.85

Income

Bible Reimbursement \$157.90
Offering \$307.97
Donations \$300.00
(Includes a \$200.00 gift card to Wal-Mart for supplies)
Total Income \$765.87

New Balance \$2035.97

Thank you for supporting our Sunday School Program!
~Susie Johnson Treasurer

REPORT OF MUSIC DIRECTOR

In 2008, the participants in Halfway Creek's music ministry continued to "reach out to share Christ's love through music". During the last year, we have:

- Had approximately 25 people perform special music during worship as choir members, worship team members, and soloists.
- Listened to the Sunday School children sing during worship on a regular basis. The kids enjoy learning both traditional songs such as Jesus Loves Me and contemporary songs such as I Will Call Upon the Lord.
- Held a forum regarding how hymns and liturgies are chosen for our worship services. Approximately five people participated in this two-session forum.
- Taught the Setting 8 liturgy from the ELW to the congregation.
- Taught selected musical responses from With One Voice Setting 4.
- Hosted the Holmen Lutheran Bell and Chime Choir at a worship service.
- Completed our fundraising for a chime choir.
- Created the "Halfway" Choir to allow more people to participate in choir.

We also participated in three special events during the last year:

- Our worship team performed as entertainment during Yes Holmen in February.
- Choir and worship team spent many hours preparing for a special Pentecost service that included music from around the world. They learned songs in a variety of languages including Swedish, Spanish, and Dakota Indian.
- The Choir and Worship Team held another Christmas Concert and Cookie Walk. The Christmas Concert featured Christmas Carols that are African American Spirituals such as Go Tell It On the Mountain. Our second Cookie Walk was a great success. Children enjoyed the special visit by Santa and Mrs. Claus.

In 2009, we hope to expand our music ministry with the addition of a tone chime choir. In addition, we hope to repeat our special Pentecost service. Also, be sure to watch the newsletter for other special music themed Sundays throughout the year.

During 2008, I've been thankful for the dedication of many members who share their musical gifts with HCLC on a regular basis. I look forward to working with even more members in our music ministry in 2009.

Cookie Walk 2008 took in \$388.00

Paid out \$143.00

\$125.00 Starting Cash

\$18.00 for boxes

I transferred \$244.00 to the Bell Choir Fund

Senior Choir started 2008 with \$643.01

Paid 2007 Cookie Walk to Bell Choir = \$345.25

Paid Cantata Music = \$201.99

Income from the Cantata = \$85.00

Income from Melford Johnson Estate = \$400.00

Balance 12/31/08: \$579.77

FYI: Worship Team Dedicated Funds

Rec'd \$400.00 from Melford Johnson Estate

Balance 12/31/08: \$401.00



Christmas Concert

Submitted by: Lynn Wegner, Director of Music

YOUTH REPORT

“You’ll see the world from a different perspective, be drawn closer to the heart of God and BE MOVED out into the places and among people that you wouldn’t have dared to go on your own.”

The youth of Halfway Creek Lutheran Church had a busy 2008. From helping out at church functions to camps at Sugar Creek to reaching out to share Christ with all in Denver, they were on the move. Many of the HCLC youth helped with many different activities at the church; teaching Sunday school, helping out with VBS, running power-point presentations during church services, joining worship team, offering childcare during other activities at church and many other activities.



Colorado Mission Trip, Summer 2008

During this past summer, HCLC was able to help send six youth to Sugar Creek Bible Camp in Ferryville, WI. During their time at Sugar Creek the youth got to worship the Lord in a different atmosphere, worship with their friends and find all the beauty that the Lord has created. The youth that attended Sugar Creek this past summer received funding not only from the Youth group, but also had help from WELCA.

This summer also found eight youth traveling to Denver, Colorado reaching out to share Christ with all. Jake Stegner, Chris Baxter, Isaac Prichett, Sam Daily, Lacy Daily, Cassie Noel, Lucie Borden and Laura Arnold along with Joe Anderson and myself drove to Denver to help the children and less fortunate in the Mile-High city. We found ourselves staying in a church in the heart of Denver. Many of us helped at the Salvation Army, helping volunteers run a day camp for the youth of Denver, others packed food at The Food Bank of the Rockies and also helped repair Denver homes. We also had the chance to worship atop the Rocky Mountains. While in Denver we also visited Elich Gardens. HCLC youth group made a difference in the city of Denver and also made friends that will last a lifetime.

The youth of HCLC had a busy year fundraising for all the activities that they were involved with. We served Lenten Suppers and made Easter Breakfast for our congregation. We also helped serve at the Lutefisk Supper and Strawberry Social. The youth made 350 pizzas that were bought by congregation members. One of our biggest fundraisers of the year were our recycling of aluminum cans; the youth would like to thank Bill and Archie Achterkirch for all their help with this fundraiser. With the success of a great fundraising year, the youth would like to thank our congregation for their continued support.

During the next year the youth will find themselves getting ready for the 2009 ELCA National Youth Gathering held in New Orleans and trips to Sugar Creek.

Submitted by,
Lee Anderson, Youth Director

2008 HCLC YOUTH INCOME AND EXPENSES

General Youth Fund		\$2046.60
Strawberry Social		\$315.00
Youth Event	\$30.59	
Debt Reduction		\$663.85
Deposit		\$50.00
Deposit/Transfer (trip '08)		\$2105.53
Meeting Supplies	\$14.06	
Pizza Corral (august meeting)	\$31.54	
Strawberry Social		\$260.00
Hodge Podge Supplies	\$82.89	
Confirmation Supplies	\$20.49	
T-Shirts (Games People Play 24 shirts)	\$185.47	
Pizza Corral (youth outing)	\$84.37	
Total		<u>\$5009.57</u>
Sugar Creek Camp Fund		\$1107.48
Receipts		\$107.41
Receipts		\$249.03
Sugar Camp Campers 2008 (six youth @ \$65.00)	\$390.00	
Receipts		\$203.00
Confirmation Retreat (Sugar Creek)	\$106.00	
Halfway Creek Lutheran Church	\$1030.92	
Halfway Creek Lutheran Church (close account)	\$221.00	
Total		<u>\$0.00</u>
Youth Mission Fund		\$3970.22
2008 Mission Trip (gas, food, hotel, etc...)	\$1864.69	
Transfer to General Youth Fund	\$2105.53	
Debt Reduction		\$2000.00
Popcans		\$303.74
Registration '09 Youth Gathering		\$600.00
Registration '09 Youth Gathering (ELCA)	\$1250.00	
Popcans		\$231.70
Donation		\$25.00
Popcans		\$173.15
Donation		\$199.25
Lutefisk Supper (tips for serving)		\$200.55
Debt Reduction		\$1013.80
Total		<u>\$3497.19</u>

REPORT OF WORSHIP DEACON

In 2008, we continued our mission of Reaching out To Share Christ With All during our worship. With the help of Music Ministries Director Lynn Wegner, our services are a mix of both contemporary and traditional, worshipping both indoors and out. Our services are regularly enriched by choirs and soloists. 2009 will bring the addition of the chime choir. Pastor Jean has also made a children's sermon a regular part of the late service. Harvest Sunday and Halfway Hodgepodge were particularly special, I believe, because those Sundays left us mingling after the service. In the coming year, my goal as Worship Deacon will be to further explore ways we can continue to come together as a congregation.

Work has again begun on taping the services so members unable to get to church regularly can still hear the services.

Thank you to those who serve during worship as Lectors, Communion assistants, ushers and sextons. I am continually thankful for your willingness to serve. I am always looking for more volunteers, however, so please contact me if interested.

Barb Rudy
Worship Deacon



Many pets attended the service for the Blessing of the Animals

REPORT OF THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Women of the ELCA, the women's organization of the church, has thousands of participants in thousands of congregations. Together we are committed to growing in faith, affirming our gifts, supporting one another in our callings, and engaging in ministry and action that promotes justice and wholeness for all people.

The women at Halfway Creek Lutheran Church are active in supporting the work of the church through quilting, serving at funerals, the LWR kits, Sugar Creek Bible Camp, serving in leadership roles and Bible Studies. Women have the ability to be God's voice to the faith community when you connect with others and challenge the congregation to identify the resources it has. Thanks to everyone who supported the Chicken-Q in April, bake sale/rummage sale in July, donations of food for supers, lunches, and other fellowship opportunities and the kits for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) in October. Halfway Creek Lutheran sent 89 quilts, 24 school kits, 21 layettes, and 9 health kits on the boxcar in October. We also donated 20 quilts to the Salvation Army and one to the Auction at Sugar Creek. Thanks to all the women who are active with the Befrienders Group and Prayer Chain—both powerful ministries beyond the church walls. Also, thanks to the members at Halfway Creek Lutheran in support of the November Thankoffering Service. Thankofferings show gratitude for God's blessings, and we have so much to be thankful for here at Halfway Creek Lutheran Church. One ongoing project is the chair fund where we have placed an order for 2 new tables and 20 new chairs. However, more money is needed to complete the project in 2009. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this account, and we look forward to using the new furniture.

Ruth Scholze, President of WELCA



Some of the tables at the Halfway Hodgepodge event

WOMEN OF THE ELCA 2008 CALENDAR

February - March

- Quilting starts

February 22

- Bold Women's Day-share your faith

March 14

- WELCA Meeting at 1:30 p.m.

April & May

- Chicken-Q---Bible Camp applications are due April 1
- Synodical Convention
- Begin collecting LWR Items
- Rummage Sale

June

- Strawberry Social
- Summer Event—North Cluster

July

- Pancake Breakfast/Bake Sale/Rummage Sale

August

- Noon salad Luncheon, August 12

September

- WELCA Meeting, September 19 at 1:30 p.m.
- Organize LWR kits

October

- Lutefisk Dinner, October 10
- Fall workshop, October 17
- Flat bread Baking at church, Thursday, October 29
- Fall Bazaar at church, October 31

November

- Thankoffering Service

December

- WELCA Meeting, December 12 at 1:30 p.m.
- Fruit Baskets
- Mission Fund Disbursements
- \$5 Gift Exchange

WELCA FINANCIAL REPORT

Beginning Balance		\$
Income		1,722.10
Offering	15.00	
Thankoffering	211.00	
Memorials		
Serving funerals	200.00	
Chicken-Q (for scholarships for Sugar Creek campers)	424.00	
Rummage sale		
Salad luncheon (proceeds to Holmen & Onalaska food pantries)	185.50	
Pancake breakfast bake sale	374.25	
Creamers and cookbooks	252.00	
Donations for new tables and chairs	800.00	
Bazaar	769.59	
Matching funds	400.00	
Transfer from savings account		3,631.34
Subtotal		\$ 5,353.44
Expenses		
Congregation (flowers, tune pianos, etc.)	213.80	
Kitchen (cleaning supplies, towels, etc.)	41.02	
Organizational (Augsburg, programs, etc.)	50.00	
Food (coffee, annual meeting, etc.)	23.15	
Salad luncheon program & food	110.09	
WELCA Thankoffering	211.00	
WELCA Synod dues	100.00	
WELCA conventions		
Gifts	2,401.33	
<i>Sunday School teachers, janitor, fruit baskets</i>	<i>367.08</i>	
<i>Youth to Sugar Creek</i>	<i>400.00</i>	
<i>New Horizons, Transitional Housing</i>	<i>75.00</i>	
<i>Holmen Food Pantry</i>	<i>200.00</i>	
<i>Onalaska Food Basket</i>	<i>85.00</i>	
<i>Coulee Council on Addictions</i>	<i>50.00</i>	
<i>Chileda</i>	<i>25.00</i>	
<i>Boys & Girls Club</i>	<i>50.00</i>	
<i>Jail ministry</i>	<i>50.00</i>	

<i>Lakeview Health Center</i>	25.00
<i>Bethany Hearthen House</i>	50.00
<i>Lutheran Social Services</i>	150.00
<i>World Hunger</i>	125.00
<i>ELCA Disaster Response</i>	100.00
<i>Sugar Creek</i>	25.00
<i>Hmong ministry</i>	50.00
<i>Random Acts of Kindness</i>	50.00
<i>Women's Clothes Closet</i>	50.00
<i>TLC Center</i>	50.00
<i>Bridge of Life Church</i>	25.00
<i>Halfway Creek Lutheran Church (special needs fund)</i>	25.00
<i>Halfway Creek Lutheran Church (Air conditioner)</i>	374.25

3,150.39

Ending Balance

**\$
2,203.05**

Kitchen Savings

\$3,049.48

Transfer to checking

**\$
23.86**

2008 Interest

This does not include the many hours of "labor" donated by the women of Halfway Creek and their families into various projects over the course of 2008. The value of this time cannot be measured in a dollar amount.

- making baked goods
- fashioning quilts
- assembling school kits and layettes
- creating and donating items to the bazaar
- making flat bread
- serving at funerals
- volunteer hours at Hearthen House, Lakeview, etc.
- organizing different events
- and many more activities

TREASURER'S REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT

Halfway Creek Lutheran Church Dedicated Funds

Dedicated Accounts are given to HCLC for a specific mission of our congregation.
Titles and balances change as HCLC grows and completes each project.

Fund Name	Balance 12/31/2007	Income	Expense	Balance 12/31/2008
Air Conditioning	\$ 2,449.00	\$ 6,645.00	\$ 9,094.00	\$ -
Debt Reduction Holdings	\$ 615.13	\$ 7,849.05	\$ 8,408.43	\$ 55.75
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 3,187.58	\$ 3,647.60	\$ 1,812.43	\$ 5,022.75
Organ Fund	\$ 30.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30.00
Parish Nurses	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00
Senior Choir	\$ 643.01	\$ 485.00	\$ 548.24	\$ 579.77
Special Music Events	\$ 500.00	\$ 159.00	\$ -	\$ 659.00
Undesignated Memorials	\$ 2,233.76	\$ 12,574.67	\$ 3,071.24	\$ 11,737.19
Annual Event Income				
Lutefisk Supper	\$ 355.29	\$ 7,731.00	\$ 7,774.58	\$ 311.71
Pancake Breakfast	\$ 13.69	\$ 1,338.46	\$ 1,340.69	\$ 11.46
Strawberry Social	\$ 16.00	\$ 1,250.21	\$ 1,265.21	\$ 1.00
Cookie Walk	\$ -	\$ 388.00	\$ 387.00	\$ 1.00
Outdoor Worship Area	\$ 720.00	\$ 246.00	\$ 311.00	\$ 655.00
Local Assistance	\$ 680.00	\$ 265.00	\$ 841.26	\$ 103.74
Building Fund				
General Fund	\$ 2,820.13	\$ 998.00	\$ -	\$ 3,818.13
Sunday School	\$ 1,665.70	\$ 2,527.18	\$ -	\$ 4,192.88
Altar Fund	\$ 11,230.72	\$ 471.91	\$ -	\$ 11,702.63
Lay Leadership Education	\$ 5,140.23	\$ 97.47	\$ -	\$ 5,237.70
Worship Team	\$ -	\$ 401.00	\$ -	\$ 401.00
Bell Choir	\$ -	\$ 2,873.24	\$ -	\$ 2,873.24
Campers Fund	\$ -	\$ 1,412.92	\$ -	\$ 1,412.92
Interest Earned	\$ -	\$ 317.53	\$ -	\$ 317.53
Year End Totals	\$ 32,500.24	\$ 51,678.24	\$ 34,854.08	\$ 49,324.40

Halfway Creek Lutheran Church Debt Reduction Progress

Fund Name	Balance 01/01/2007	Balance 01/01/2008	Balance 12/31/2008
Improvement Fund	\$ 2,042.00	\$ 2,042.60	Paid
Undesignated Memorials	\$ 3,776.23	Paid	Paid
Lutefisk Supper	\$ 3,197.83	Paid	Paid
Designated Memorials	\$ 829.00	Paid	Paid
General Building Fund	\$ 28,606.56	\$ 30,106.56	\$ 29,743.75
Windows Fund	\$ 3,575.00	\$ 3,575.00	\$ 3,575.00
Sunday School Building	\$ 4,027.18	\$ 2,527.18	Paid
2005 Pancake Breakfast	\$ 574.00	\$ 574.00	\$ 574.00
Youth Campers Fund	\$ 1,430.37	\$ 1,430.37	\$ 1,269.37
Youth General Fund	\$ 663.85	\$ 663.85	Paid
Youth Trip Fund	\$ 3,013.60	\$ 3,013.60	Paid
Totals	\$ 51,735.22	\$ 43,933.16	\$ 35,162.12

We have come through two years of our three year program to reduce our HCLC debt. Our goal for 2008 was to pay back the Youth Accounts. We have made good strides in reaching that goal but we have a balance owing to the Campers Fund. 2009 will mark our final year in our quest to eliminate our debt. How are we to achieve this goal?

BUDGET 2009

Halfway Creek Lutheran		Church General Operations Fund		
2008 Budget & Actual Expense		2009 Proposed Budget		
		2008 Budget	2008 Income/Expense	2009 Proposed Budget
Income				
	Envelope Offering		\$ 105,551.15	
	Mission Offering		\$ 4,825.00	
	Total Income		\$ 110,376.15	
Expense				
1-0 EXPENSES OF CHURCH PROPERTY				
	1-1 Electricity - Church	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,373.39	\$ 2,500.00
	1-2 Insurance - Property	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,181.37	\$ 2,500.00
	1-3 Midwest Gas - Church	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 2,057.39	\$ 2,200.00
	1-3 Midwest Gas - Shed	\$ 200.00	\$ 129.35	\$ 200.00
	1-4 Janitorial Supplies	\$ 700.00	\$ 446.67	\$ 500.00
	1-5 Maintenance	\$ 500.00	\$ 498.76	\$ -
	Total 1-0 EXPENSES OF CHURCH PROPERTY	\$ 8,600.00	\$ 7,686.93	\$ 7,900.00
2-0 EXPENSES OF CHURCH OFFICE				
	2-1 Office Leased Equipment	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,883.04	\$ 2,800.00
	2-3 Postage	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,656.00	\$ 1,600.00
	2-4 Office Supplies	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,177.27	\$ 1,000.00
	2-5 Website/Internet Expenses	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 876.72	\$ 1,000.00
	2-51 Computer Software	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 918.35	\$ 1,000.00
	2-6 Office Equipment Maintenanac	\$ 700.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
	2-7 Telephone Expense	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 872.84	\$ 1,000.00
	2-8 Advertising	\$ 300.00	\$ 429.50	\$ 500.00
	2-9 Business Legal Fees	\$ 50.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 50.00
	Total 2-0 EXPENSES OF CHURCH OFFICE	\$ 9,750.00	\$ 8,843.72	\$ 9,450.00
3-0 EXPENSES OF WORSHIP				
	3-1 Worship Supplies	\$ 300.00	\$ 273.99	\$ 300.00
	3-2 Altar Supplies Expense	\$ 300.00	\$ 562.62	\$ 300.00
	3-3 Choir Expense	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -
	3-4 WorshipTeam Expense	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -
	3-5 Children's Sermon Expense	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00
	3-6 Bulletins & Inserts	\$ 300.00	\$ 553.15	\$ 200.00
	3-7 Special Events of Worship	\$ 300.00	\$ 112.39	\$ 300.00
	3-8 Copyright	\$ 300.00	\$ 261.00	\$ 300.00
	3-9 Offering Envelopes Expense	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,123.78	\$ 1,000.00
	Total 3-0 EXPENSES OF WORSHIP	\$ 3,100.00	\$ 2,886.93	\$ 2,500.00
4-0 EXPENSES OF LAY EDUCATION				
	4-1 Adult Education Materials	\$ 200.00	\$ 68.57	\$ 200.00
	4-2 Bibles	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
	4-3 Conferences/Conventions	\$ 230.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 230.00
	4-31 Synod Assembly	\$ 500.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 500.00
	4-4 Confirmation Cirriculum	\$ 400.00	\$ 200.22	\$ 200.00
	4-5 Stewardship Educatin	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00
	4-6 Communion Education	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	4-8 Christ in our Home	\$ -	\$ 242.04	\$ -
	Total 4-0 EXPENSES OF LAY EDUCATION	\$ 1,930.00	\$ 1,110.83	\$ 1,530.00

Income			
5-0 EXPENSE OF PASTOR MINISTRY			
5-1 Pastor's Salary	\$ 32,600.00	\$ 35,842.08	\$ 33,650.00
5-2 Pastor's Soc Sec Offset	\$ 3,242.00	included	\$ 3,347.00
5-3 Pastor's Housing Equity	\$ 1,203.00	\$ 1,203.00	\$ 1,203.00
5-4 Car Allowance	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,038.50	\$ 3,000.00
5-5 Pastor's Pension Fund	\$ 4,660.00	\$ 6,814.51	\$ 5,920.00
5-51 Pastor's Insurance	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 4,764.43	\$ 5,200.00
5-6 Medical Reimbursement	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 434.11	\$ 1,000.00
5-7 Continuing Education	\$ 800.00	\$ 666.70	\$ 800.00
5-71 Book Allowance	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ 300.00
5-8 Conferences & Conventions	\$ 400.00	\$ 355.00	\$ 400.00
5-82 Sabbatical Reseve	\$ 1,150.00	\$ 958.40	\$ 1,150.00
5-9 Parsonage Electricity	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,062.08	\$ 1,200.00
5-91 Parsonage Natural Gas	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,161.54	\$ 1,400.00
5-92 Parsonage Maintenance	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -
Total 5-0 EXPENSE OF PASTOR MINISTRY	\$ 56,955.00	\$ 54,300.35	\$ 58,570.00
7-0 EMPLOYEE/SUB-CONTRACTED			
7-1 Office Assistant Salary	\$ 10,400.00	\$ 9,693.75	\$ 10,608.00
7-2 Music Director Salary	\$ 11,232.00	\$ 11,232.00	\$ 11,457.00
7-21 Bell Choir Director	\$ 800.00	\$ -	\$ 800.00
7-3 Custodian Salary	\$ 4,125.00	\$ 4,125.12	\$ 4,208.00
7-4 Payroll Taxes	\$ 3,404.00	\$ 2,029.23	\$ 2,200.00
7-5 Workmen's Compensation	\$ 950.00	\$ 711.00	\$ 900.00
7-6 Supply Organist/Pianists	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 855.00	\$ 1,000.00
7-7 Supply Pastor Expense	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,253.00	\$ 900.00
7-8 Lawn & Grounds Upkeep	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 701.00	\$ 1,200.00
7-9 Snowplowing	\$ 600.00	\$ 1,040.00	\$ 800.00
Total 7-0 EMPLOYEES/SUBCONTRACTED SER	\$ 34,511.00	\$ 31,640.10	\$ 34,073.00
9-0 MINISTRY BEYOND OUR WALLS			
9-1 LaCrosse Area Synod	\$ 10,014.00	\$ 5,350.00	\$ 9,602.00
9-3 TLC Center	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 600.00
9-4 Local Donations	\$ 300.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 300.00
9-5 Parish Nurses	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -
9-6 Sugar Creek Bible Camp	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
9-7 Synod Assembly Gift	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
9-8 Lutheran Social Services	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Total 9-0 MINISTRY BEYOND OUR WALLS	\$ 11,614.00	\$ 6,650.00	\$ 11,402.00
TOTAL:	\$ 127,760.00	\$ 113,118.86	\$ 125,425.00
Net Income (Loss)		\$ (2,742.71)	

NOMINATIONS

2008 Council

President – Amy Noel

VP – Ruth Scholze

Secretary - Elisa Moss

Treasurer - Gaye Johnson

Finance Secretary-Kathie Severson

Financial Trustee – Jon Strangstalien

Stewardship Trustee – Lila Sutherland

Property Trustee – John Noel

Worship Deacon – Barb Rudy

Social Ministry Deacon – Melissa Strauss

Evangelism Deacon – Arlene Prichett

Christian Education – Brenda Herman

Youth Director – Lee Anderson

Audit Committee – Thelma Severson & Sonja Nelson

Nominating Committee – Marge Lee & Ted Latham

*People listed in **bold print** are nominees

2009 Council

President – Ruth Scholze

VP - _____

Secretary - Elisa Moss

Treasurer - Gaye Johnson

Finance Secretary – Kathie Severson

Financial Trustee –Joseph Scholze

Stewardship Trustee – Lila Sutherland

Property Trustee – John Noel

Worship Deacon – Barb Rudy

Social Ministry Deacon –Lynn Wegner

Evangelism Deacon – Arlene Prichett

Christian Education – Brenda Herman

Youth Director – Lee Anderson

Audit Committee—Thelma Severson & Sonja Nelson

Synod Assembly – _____

Sugar Creek Bible Camp Delegates - Ted & Jean Latham

Nominating Committee – _____

Trust Committee: Mel Prinz, Russ Bringe, Hannah Scholze

Other Nominations:

*Thanks to each of you who make this a
wonderful congregation!*