



WWW.HALFWAYCREEK.ORG

# Currents

SEPTEMBER 2010

**HALFWAY CREEK  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
W6016 County Road W  
Holmen, WI 54636  
Phone 608-526-3701  
www.halfwaycreek.org

**Return Service Requested**  
**OFFICE HOURS**

The office will be open from  
9:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Monday,  
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. If  
you need to reach Kathleen  
Jensen, you may leave a  
message on the answering  
machine or e-mail her at  
assistant@halfwaycreek.org.

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## “HALFWAY HODGEPODGE”—YOU’RE INVITED!

**What:** Halfway Hodgepodge is a progressive meal where you can learn about and volunteer for our ministries here at the church. Tables will be set up and each table will feature a different ministry. Also at that table will be the next part of your meal. It is a fun way to see all

that we do here! You can also register for Sunday School that day.

**When:** Sunday, September 12th, following our 9:00 service.

**Why:** Because we are doing a lot in terms of serving God and God’s people, and we need you to help us continue

to do that.

**Cost:** Nothing. Just bring yourself, your family, and your friends.



## FALL KICKOFF/SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION—SEPTEMBER 12

September 12 we will have one worship service at 9:00 a.m. This will be followed by Sunday School

Registration at Halfway Hodgepodge. During this service we will also have the Blessing of the Bibles and Backpacks.

Please see page 6 of this newsletter for more information on the Blessing of the Bibles and Backpacks.

## FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Please note the change in our worship schedule! Sunday worship will be at 8:00 a.m. followed by

Sunday School at 9:15 a.m. and worship again at 10:30 a.m. starting September 19 as deter-

mined by the Vision Board at the August meeting.



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## ELCA ARTICLE—LISTENING FOR GOD AT HALFWAY CREEK

The following article was written by the ELCA and is on the web at <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Stories-of-Faith-in-Action/Congregational-Life/Listening-for-God-at-Halfway-Creek.aspx>.

For Gaye Johnson, the new Listening Walk on the grounds of her congregation may be as much about seeing as hearing.

The walk winds gently through the lush rolling farmland outside of Holmen, Wis., home to [Halfway Creek Lutheran Church](#), a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Members are encouraged to linger on the walk for prayer, contemplation and inspiration.

Gaye is the lay leader who spearheaded the installation of the project. For her, the Listening Walk is a symbol of the congregation's recent commitment to renewal and prayer-focused leadership.

"With our new benches and our new trail, I hope the congregation can see itself from a different angle and see a new way of being 'church' together, with God as our center."

As recently as three years ago, Halfway Creek was a divided congregation struggling with trust issues.

When the Rev. Jean Pagliaro arrived as the new pastor, Halfway Creek had a traditional model of congregation council built around lengthy meetings. Members felt

they had limited input in decision making.

Pastor Jean encouraged Gaye, who was vocal in her frustrations, to lead some informal conversations about creating a new vision of healing and hope for the congregation.

Gaye began to see a shift almost immediately.

"We had some good discussions about what it means to be a church with a purpose. We are asking lots of questions, but most important right now, we are listening for God's voice."

"God is loose in the world," Pastor Jean reminded her congregation as they began a process of exploration and experimentation. What's more, "God is near and God is here" at Halfway Creek.

### A Sense of Renewal

Today a Vision Board has replaced the congregation council, with seven members ranging in age from high school to retirement.

Most important, according to Pastor Jean, "the meetings are fun! We spend 20 minutes for any business that needs to be taken care of. The rest of the time is spent talking and praying and discerning what it is that we're called to do as a congregation.

"One meeting, for example, focused on doing a Meyers-Briggs personality inventory for congregations. We talked about the personality of the congregation, how we live out our calling, what we

don't like about it and what we do."

"We're just in the beginning phase of this new model," Pastor Jean observes, "but so far it has been received well."

Much of the work of the former congregation council has been delegated to teams of members who focus on specific areas of ministry.

Projects underway include a cross-generational Vacation Bible School, serving a free meal open to the community and revamping an old Lutefisk shed into a gathering place for youth.

After recently attending a conference led by ELCA Vocation and Education staff, Pastor Jean made some exciting discoveries about what it means to be a praying congregation. "I can't wait to share their insights with the Vision Board!"

Finally, the sense of renewal at Halfway Creek is about members more fully embracing their call to share God's boundless love with the world.

"There's more room for creativity, for the Holy Spirit to work and for us to hear the dream that God has for us and this community and beyond," says Pastor Jean.

Gaye wholeheartedly agrees.

"There are so many possibilities! We have so far to go. But the Holy Spirit is alive in Halfway Creek, and we are open to hearing God's voice."

## COMMUNITY EVENTS—CONTIUNUED

### COULEE REGION GOSPEL CHOIR

The Coulee Region Gospel Choir will begin rehearsing for its Christmas concert (November 26 and 27) on **October 2** under the direction of Dean Gunnarson and Steve Marking. Singers of all voice ranges and ages are invited (including a children's choir) to be a part of this spectacular and highly popular annual

extravaganza. This year's concert will feature a variety of professional soloists, the Onalaska Methodist Handbell Choir, and other brass and percussion. Rehearsals are Sundays from 3-5 p.m. with a **kickoff event on Saturday, Oct. 2 at 9 a.m.** at Sand Lake Wesleyan Church in Onalaska. A nominal

fee will be requested to help cover music expenses. For more information, contact Ruth Ann Granum at 526-2218 or [rcgc@centurytel.net](mailto:rcgc@centurytel.net). Information is also posted on the "Coulee Region Gospel Choir" Facebook fan page.

### GRIEF GROUP

A free and confidential Healing Through Grief Group Series is offered from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Spiritual Care Department located on the third floor of the St. Francis Building (hospital). Enter using the doorway at 10th and Market Streets and take the stairs of elevator to the third floor. The Spiritual Care Department is located immediately across from the elevator and stairs on 3rd floor. You are invited to attend any part of the series at any time. Please call Spiritual Care at 785-0940 ext 2-2218 for additional information.

Sept. 13—Helping Our Families Help Us Grieve

Sept. 27—Key Differences Between Grieving and Depression

Oct. 11—Helping Children and Teens Cope with Grief

Oct. 25—Creative Memory-Making Ideas

Nov. 8—Praying Through Grief

Nov. 22—Life Transitions

Dec. 6—How to Help Ourselves Through Anniversaries and The Holidays

Dec. 20—Making Further Connections

One-on-one confidential counseling is also available from a certified Franciscan Skemp chaplain with specialized training in grief counseling. Please contact Spiritual Care at the number above.

### A MINI-RETREAT FOR CAREGIVERS - SEPTEMBER 21

Relax and Rejuvenate—Are you caring for a loved one—a spouse, partner, relative, neighbor or friend? Finding ways to maintain your health and renew your spirit is vital in the care-giving journey. Designed with caregivers in mind, this mini-retreat offers speakers, stories, a nature program and a delicious lunch. Bring a friend

and enjoy the beauty of the Myrick Hixon EcoPark from 9am-3pm. \$15 Family caregivers (\$25 professional caregivers) Lunch and refreshments included.

Respite Care is available for your loved one during the program at no cost by La Crosse County Aging Unit. Reservations are

required. Contact Noreen Kuroski at 608-785-9710.

To register:

By phone: 785-6504

On website:

[www.uwlax.edu/conted](http://www.uwlax.edu/conted)

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### SUGAR CREEK EVENTS

September 11, 10 am—Quilt Auction, Antiques, Country Store, Crafts, bar-b-que pork lunch, homemade pies, etc.  
Check out the posters at the entrance to the church or their website for more information.

www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org

**September 12-18.** Washington DC, Gettysburg, Hershey Pa, Lancaster PA and much more!

**September 12-17** Boundary Waters Canoe Trip

**September 22** one day trip to Fireside Dinner Theater Broadway Musical "HairSpray"

**November 1-5** Branson Christmas Shows in Branson, MO

Call camp for detailed flyers on all trips 608-734-3113 or [camp@sgrcreek.org](mailto:camp@sgrcreek.org)

Sugar Creek has 20 horses to 'farm' out. Can you house one or two horses for the winter (we give you horses and tack)? Pickup first week of September and have back by May 15th. Call Sheila at 734-3113



### HELP SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Special Olympics of La Crosse is recycling plastic bottle caps (smaller than the size of a large Gatorade bottle cap) to

provide free haircuts and other services to their participants. You can help by saving plastic bottle caps and

turning them in to Lynn Wegner (you can also leave them in her church mailbox).

### SPEAKER AT LEWIS VALLEY CHURCH

On September 19 at 3:30 p.m. Lewis Valley Lutheran Church will be offering a talk on "Internet Safety and Your Middle School Student". Tina Johnson from the LaCrosse County Aging and Disability Resource Center will be the speaker. They also have the following talks:

October 17, Understanding Medicare Drug Plans  
November 14, Advance Directives in Heath Care  
Everyone is welcome to attend these talks.

### MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

#### Seasons Cycle – So Do Marriages

All marriages experience seasons of Harmony & Joy alternating with times of Frustration & Disillusionment. A Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend

gives you new tools to weather the changes using deeper communication and love. The next Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends in Minnesota are October 22-24 in Duluth; and November 19-21 in Brooklyn

Center. Please register a month in advance. For more information, contact Dick & Judy Dehnel at 952-432-3105, Pete & Phyllis McMahon at 763-561-1575 or visit [www.godlovesmarriage.org](http://www.godlovesmarriage.org).

### DIVORCE CARE

DivorceCare, a seminar and support group will meet at Holmen Lutheran Church beginning on Tuesday, September 21 at 7:00 p.m. DivorceCare features

nationally recognized experts on divorce and recovery topics. Seminar sessions include Facing Your Anger, Facing Your Loneliness, Depression, New

Relationships, and Forgiveness.

Please call Sue at 317-7512 or Cheryl at 526-526-9032 for more information.

## SERVING OTHERS IN OUR CONGREGATION

		ACOLYTE	SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	OFFERING COUNTERS	LECTOR	COMMUNION ASSIST.	USHERS	NURSERY
SEPT 5				Barb Hale Bette Pedretti	Rhonda Britton Sonja Nelson				
	900	Drin and Elvern Nyseth	Morgan Jostad			Marge Lee	Ruth Jostad	Drin and Elvern Nyseth	Not available
SEPT 12				Diane Jostad	Emily Jostad Thelma Severson				
	900	Amy Noel	Matt Pagliaro			Jean Latham	Hannah Scholze	Amy Noel	Not available
SEPT 19	800	Jordan Stegner	Archie Achterkirch	Carrie Payne Nicole Stumlin	John Daily Mike Martin	Raymond Lee	Amy Noel	Nicole Stegner	
	1030	Zach Johnson	Isaac Prichett			Arlene Prichett	Lee Anderson	Kim Johnson	Kendra Bringe
SEPT 26	800	Jesse Booth	Russ Bringe	Karla Johnson Hannah Scholze	Bette Pedretti Susan Jostad	Elisa Moss	Rita Roberts	Warren & Kim Booth	
	1030	Michael Betsinger	Dave Bringe			Lee Anderson	Chris Baxter	Dave & Lisa Betsinger	Volunteer needed

**Thank you for your service in our worshipping community.**

If you are unable to volunteer for a time in which you are listed, please find somebody to take your place.

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**



<b>1</b> Rachael Temp	<b>14</b> Matt Pagliaro Buelah Sanders	<b>20</b> Alexander Rudy Ashton Rudy	Mark Sanders
<b>5</b> Greg Britton	Rodney Sutherland	<b>21</b> Arlene Prichett	<b>25</b> Ruth Jostad Dorothy Hoch Rich Pedretti
<b>8</b> Angela Kinsman	Delores Evenson Kaden Casberg	<b>22</b> Connie Lau Hannah Wegner	Pastor Jean Pagliaro
<b>10</b> Hannah Scholze	<b>18</b> Diane Jostad Emily Jostad	<b>23</b> Morgan Jostad	<b>26</b> Eric Theisen Alex Pedretti
<b>13</b> Susie Johnson Emersen Strangstalien	Kimberly Noel	Lila Sutherland Stan Schwier David Johnson	<b>29</b> Kim Booth

**HCLC'S WORSHIP TEAM SINGS THE NATIONAL ANTHEM AT THE LOGGERS BASEBALL GAME.**



Carolyn Thornton, Erin Hale, Lynn Wegner, Sam Daily, Jon Strangstalien and John Daily are walking out to perform for a full house at the Lumber Yard. They all did a fantastic job. What a fun night!

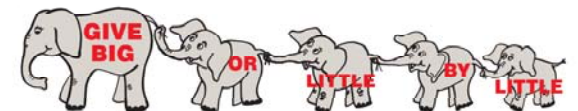
**TREASURER'S REPORT**

July General Fund Income:	\$ 8,893.44
July General Fund Expenses:	\$ 10,104.20
July General Fund Net Income:	\$ - 1,210.76

**August General Fund Income - 4 Sundays: \$ 8,811.23**

General Fund Expenses Paid to 8/23/10:	
Church Property	\$ 550.83
Church Office	\$ 176.28
Worship Expense	\$ 282.79
Lay Education	\$ 216.00
Pastor Ministry	\$ 2,969.60
Parsonage Expense	\$ 150.11
Employees/SubContracted	\$ 2,910.96
Missions	\$ 100.00
Total Expenses Paid August 23, 2010:	\$ 7,356.57
Estimated Expenses due to August 31, 2010:	\$ 2,527.00
<b>Total Estimated August Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ 9,883.57</b>

HCLC 2010 Budget:	\$ 129,328.11
2010 Income to July 31:	\$ 66,496.78
2010 Expenses to July 31:	\$ 69,990.86



# YOUTH NEWS

## WELCOME ANDREA BAXTER!

We are excited to announce that Andrea Baxter is now our volunteer youth director! Andrea is a lifelong member who has served in many ways and would now like to focus on high school

youth. She just attended the Youthworks mission trip to Chicago and is excited to start this new adventure. If you have any questions or have

any ideas for service projects or other activities for our youth, please contact Andrea Baxter at 769-0962 or abaxter@charter.net.



**THE YOUTH ON THEIR MISSION TRIP TO CHICAGO**

Front row, left to right: Chris Baxter, Andrea Baxter, Emily Arnold, Pastor Jean, Rebecca Moss, Laura Arnold, Savanah Britton.

Back row: Seth Warner, Alex Pedretti, Jacob Stegner, Josh Stegner, Lucie Borden

# NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK

## MEMORIALS

Memorials have been gratefully received from the friends and family of Nita Witte for the purchase of a baptismal candle holder.

## A NOTE FROM THE PARISH NURSES

### Is this mole a problem???

Summer is quickly coming to an end and fall is just around the corner. All summer we have been wearing swim suits and short sleeves. If someone has said to you, "that mole looks weird.", or you've noticed a change in the mole, take it seriously.

How do you identify an unusual mole that may indicate melanoma or another skin cancer? Use the A-B-C-D- E guide developed by the American Academy of Dermatology:

**A is for asymmetrical shape.** Look for moles with irregular shapes, such as two very different looking halves.

**B is for irregular border.** Look for moles with irregular, notched or scalloped borders – the characteristics of melanomas.

**C is for change in color.** Look for growths that have many colors or an uneven distribution of color.

**D is for diameter.** Look for new growth in a mole larger than a head of a pencil (1/4").

**E is for evolving.** Look for changes over time, growth in size or changes in color or shape.



If you have any questionable skin spots, see your personal healthcare provider. It's important that cancerous changes are detected and treated before they have a chance to spread. Melanoma can be successfully treated if you catch it early.

## FESTIVAL FOODS RECEIPTS

### Save Your Festival Foods Grocery Receipts & Help HCLC Ministries

When you leave your Festival Foods grocery receipts in the offering plate or in the folders by the exit doors, you are helping the Women's group send HCLC

campers to Sugar Creek Bible Camp and supporting the Sunday School program.

Halfway Creek receives a percentage of your receipt back from the Skogen Family. We then distribute these monies during the

first quarter of the year. As more grocery receipts are brought in and our fund increases, we would like to include the Youth Group in the annual distributions. Your participation is so appreciated!!

## SNACK PACK

We understand that sometimes it is difficult to plan ahead. There is a Snack Pack container in the

kitchen with cookies, cheerios and crackers. Please help yourself and your little (and not so little) ones to

a treat when you are at Halfway Creek.

## NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK CONT.

### VISION BOARD MINUTES FROM AUGUST MEETING

Vision Board Meeting Minutes for August 10, 2010

Archie Achterkirch, representing the Property Team, led a discussion regarding the new septic system that the state is requiring be installed by the end of the year. Three bids were received. The cost is estimated to be from \$12,000 to \$16,000. Installation of the new system will require removal of some trees behind the church. (See p.8 for more information.)

Motion was made by Gaye Johnson and seconded by Morgan Jostad to accept the minutes of the July

meeting with one revision. The plan for the septic system and drain field was submitted to the State of Wisconsin not the county for approval. Motion passed.

The Board then discussed the "Conversation and Celebration" event that will be held October 23. The purpose of the event was reiterated. We are celebrating what each of the Teams has done this year and what they are looking forward to in the future. We are continuing the discussion of who we are and who we are not. A list of questions that should be answered

in the Team reports was discussed. The event will also give the Board guidance and help in the preparation for the Annual Meeting.

The next Vision Board meeting will be September 14, 2010 at 6:30 pm.

Gaye Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Joanne Nichols. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Nichols

### PASTORAL ACTS

- ♦ Julian John Sands was baptized on August 22. His parents are Derrick and Jessica Sands. Welcome!!

### BLESSING OF THE BIBLES & BACKPACKS - SEPTEMBER 12

All students, teachers and support staff of our schools are invited to bring their backpacks and/or brief cases to worship on Sunday, September 12 for a "Blessing of the Backpacks." ALL Sunday School children are also invited to participate in the Blessing of the Bibles. Each child will receive a

new Spark Bible this year, and we will give them on the 12th.

The blessing will happen as a part of worship as a recognition that God goes with us in all of life. Students engage in the ministry of learning and preparation. Teachers and support staff are

engaged in the ministry of guiding, shaping and educating our youth.

Together, students and teachers help God establish God's kingdom among us. As the learning community engages in their ministries, our world is made



## TEAM UPDATES - CONT.

### PROPERTY TEAM

**MEMBERS: ARCHIE ACHTERKIRCH, BILL ACHTERKIRCH, MARY ANN HADL, DOUG JOHNSON, RICH PEDRETTI**

We have been busy finding bids for our sewer system, helping get the Lutefisk Shed ready for

the Youth to move in, maintaining the property with planting shrubs and flowers and

finding ways to utilize the land God has given us.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL TEAM

**MEMBERS: SUSIE JOHNSON, ROSE SIMON, CHANTEL TEMP, AND CAROLYN THORNTON.**

Our Team evaluates curriculum and format. For the 2010-2011 school year, we decided to go back to a classroom style of teaching and we will not be coordinating the calendar with the school district calendar. We will have Sunday School every Sunday, except on the major holiday breaks.

We are excited to introduce Jen

Strangstalien and Katrina Bring as the co-facilitators. Each class will have two age levels and will have team teachers. We will continue the weekly music and having the kids sing on the last Sunday of the month. We re-evaluated the curriculum and decided on Spark for this year. The lessons are planned and will be coordinated between the two

teachers and the classroom style will offer more of an opportunity to connect with the kids on an individual level. We are still incorporating some of last year's concepts, a morning greeter and discussing highs and lows. We will hopefully continue the family, multi-generational approach we began last year.

### YOUTH TEAM

**MEMBERS: LEE ANDERSON, LAURA ARNOLD, TERRIE BORDEN, MIKE MARTIN AND NICOLE STEGNER**

The Youth Team has been busy! We set up the fundraising and plans for the mission trip to Chicago and helped Andrea Baxter, Josh Stegner and Pastor Jean get ready for the trip. We have worked with the Sunday School Team and will continue to meet with them quarterly and work together on cross-generational ministries. We have also started making plans for the Lutefisk shed and will be

having a meeting September 15 with parents and high school youth to plan for the coming year. Next year's mission trip is already in the plans and we are excited to have 15 people registered to go to Boston with Youthworks. Also, Andrea Baxter is our new volunteer youth director and we are working closely with her and offering our support and encouragement as she begins

this ministry. We are also planning a high school retreat to Sugar Creek Bible camp October 27-29 (fall break) and encourage all high school youth to participate. Cost is \$35.00/person and the rest of the cost will be supplemented by the Youth Group general fund. There is a lot happening with our youth and we are excited for what's in store!

## TEAM UPDATES – CONT.

### FELLOWSHIP/OUTREACH TEAM

**MEMBERS: ANNIE FIERS, ERIN HALE, ELISA MOSS AND THELMA SEVERSON**

We began with discussing what it means to reach in to our congregation and what it means to reach out to the community. Our big project this summer was

the Rummage Sale which required a great deal of planning. Possible future projects include serving again at Holmen's Hope, having a float at Kornfest,

planning an ecumenical worship service in the Band Shell Kornfest weekend, and working more closely with the TLC Center.

### FINANCE TEAM

**MEMBERS: RHONDA BRITTON, PAULA HAMMES, GAYE JOHNSON AND TED LATHAM**

Finance Team has undergone a big change in our young life. Kathie Severson, our Financial Secretary (the person who does your statements) has stepped down and Paula Hammes has filled that position. Thank you, Kathie for three years of hard work! And thank you, Paula, for

stepping up.

Finance Team is headed by the church Treasurer, Gaye Johnson, and supported by Ted Latham, Rhonda Britton and Paula Hammes. Each of the members have a financial background and bring their

many gifts to the Team.

We discuss topics such as stewardship, Bury the Debt, helping others to grow in their understanding of giving and many more things.

### LITURGY & MUSIC TEAM

**MEMBERS: SAM DAILY, MARGE LEE, HANNAH SCHOLZE, JON STRANGSTALIEN AND LYNN WEGNER**

The main focus during the Music and Liturgy Team meetings has been to develop guiding principles which will help us to plan worship services that meet the needs and worship preferences of more of our members and visitors. In addition to this

discussion, we have also discussed possible future worship series, the Christmas program, how we can involve more youth in worship, and how we can better represent our worship on Halfway's website. We also evaluated the Holy Week services from last

spring. In addition, we have also sponsored the following special services: a Holocaust Remembrance Sunday, a Pentecost Service and Potluck, a Service of the Word and Song with Steve Marking, and the Healing Hoedown.

## NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK CONT.

### BLESSING OF THE PETS - OCTOBER 3

Halfway Creek will hold a "Blessing of the Animals" on October 3 at the 10:30 a.m. worship, which will be in Whispering Pines. If the service cannot be held outside due to the

weather, it will be held inside instead. Animals are invited to attend the entire worship service as long as they are caged or leashed. Worship will commemorate St.

Francis of Assisi who is best known for his prayer, *Make me an instrument of your peace* and for his hymn, *All Creatures of our God and King*. He is also known as a lover

of nature and so the practice of blessing of the animals. Come to worship and bring the animals for the blessing! If your pet can't attend, you can also bring a picture.

### CONVERSATION AND CELEBRATION—OCTOBER 23

If you are a part of any of the newly-formed Teams at Halfway Creek, including the Music/Liturgy, Finance, Outreach/Fellowship, Evangelism/Discipleship, Property, Youth, Sunday School, join us on Saturday, October 23 from 8:30-

12:00 for Conversation and Celebration of who we are and what God is calling us to be as a congregation. Team Members are strongly encouraged to attend so please mark this on your calendars now.

Also, you do not need to be a part of a Team to join us. All are welcome and we would love to have you as a part of the day.

### NEW SEPTIC SYSTEM AT HCLC

#### We Need a New Sewer!

Not one of our favorite subjects. But our septic system needs to be replaced. The old system has served HCLC well. The last inspection was in 1951.

Our Property Team has been at work gathering information and

have considered three bids to replace the old system. The State of Wisconsin has approved the plan and the Property Team has awarded the contract to Able Plumbing of Holmen. Cost for the entire project will be approximately \$15,000. Work will begin as soon as possible.

The Finance Team is accepting monies to pay for the new sewer and your generosity is needed. To make your donation, please use a separate (other than your weekly offering) envelope and mark it "Sewer Project". Thank you.

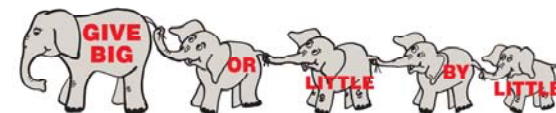
### GOODBYE "BURY THE DEBT"

#### Good bye "Bury the Debt" Drive! but not HCLC Debt

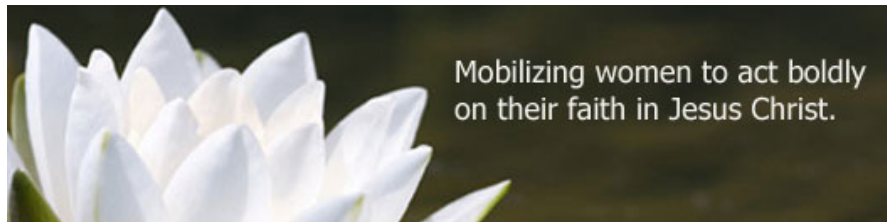
We devoted three years and six months to our "Bury the Debt"

campaign. We reduced the HCLC Debt from \$51,735.22 to \$18,943.00. The balance is donations made to the Building Fund and used by the General

Fund. Thank you for your generosity! We have come a long way in three years! Any future contributions can be made directly to the Building Fund.



## WELCA NEWS



Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

### WE ACT BOLDLY BY PROVIDING KITS FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

People who must flee their homes quickly often do not have time to pack essential items. Health kits can help refugees maintain personal hygiene while living in exile. Items may also contribute to a new start for those who can return home. Please bring items for the health kits.

A school kit may provide the only supplies for children returning to school after the disruption of war.

School kits help parents continue their children's education, even while living in a refugee camp, for example. A school kit may also be used in adult literacy classes. Please donate school supplies.

In refugee camps, hospitals, and villages around the world, gifts of layettes convey a warm welcome to newborns and their mothers. We need receiving blankets, T-shirts, and sweaters.

An LWR quilt is special! It brings warmth on a cold night, shelter from the sun on a hot day. It becomes a bed, a room divider, a backpack to carry belongings, and at times even a home. Quilting will begin again in

2011!

A brand new bar of soap contributes to dignity and cleanliness. LWR accepts **new bars of any brand soap, in its original wrapping**. All bar sizes are accepted; however, bath-size bars (4-5 oz.) are highly preferred. Please donate soap.

**We will organize the kits for Lutheran World Relief on Saturday, September 18 at 1:30 PM.**

**Please see the goldenrod insert for specific items needed for these kits.**

**Thank you Halfway Creek Lutheran Church for supporting Lutheran World Relief.**

receive e-mail alerts for new issues. Also available as a podcast.

### FREE ONLINE MAGAZINE

**Read. Connect. Grow.** Cafe is a free, monthly online magazine for young women offered

by Women of the ELCA. Visit [www.boldcafe.org](http://www.boldcafe.org) and subscribe to

### SALAD LUNCHEON THANK YOU

Thanks to everyone who supported the August Salad Luncheon. Our Luncheon was held on the day that most of Holmen was without power. A special thanks to Archie

who came to our rescue and helped make coffee with his generator and made sure the restrooms were operational. This was quite a day shared with 65

women from the area churches. The candlelight salad luncheon was wonderful.

### TABLES

We have ordered 8 more tables to complete the basement but we still need money to buy more chairs.

We are selling some of the old tables for \$20.00, but please use the old tables for art crafts,

rummage sales, etc. Thanks for your support with this ongoing project.

## TEAM UPDATES

### VISION BOARD

**MEMBERS: CHRIS BAXTER, JOHN DAILY, GAYE JOHNSON, MORGAN JOSTAD, SONYA NELSON, JOANNE NICHOLS AND AMY NOEL**

Following the support (and the annual meeting vote) of the HCLC Congregation, the Vision Board was launched in February. Our first meeting was a conversation with Pastor Mark Solyst and the Vision Board President Bob Bendickson from English Lutheran Church in LaCrosse. They shared the journey they have been on to become a vision/mission focused church.

Through prayer, reading and discussion the Vision Board has focused on the question, "What is God calling us to do?" During the

first few months, we identified the congregation's strengths, weaknesses and opportunities and then shared our perspective of the congregation's personality. We answered the question "Who taught you to pray?" This was a precursor to our summer outdoor worship series on prayer. We've discussed chapters from the book that many of you read "Living Lutheran". We focused one of our discussions on the current mission, "Reaching out to share Christ with all".

Every meeting includes some focus on the business of the

church. Each month, we ask ourselves is this something we need to make a decision about or do we have a Team that could help us.

The following reports will tell you about the work of the Teams. You can't help but feel the energy generated by their activities and goals. We invite all members to join the Vision Board and the HCLC Teams on Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> to talk about what we've learned about ourselves and HCLC over the past year and then to talk about "What's next?"

### EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP TEAM

**MEMBERS: NANCY HOLLEY, KERMIT & SUSAN JOSTAD AND JEAN LATHAM**

We have been praying and learning about what it means to be disciples and to share God's message. Our mission statement is "Fire up and reach out" because people first need to know what a disciple is before they can reach out and share that message.

1. We are working on beginning new Bible studies: one for men, and we are looking for a time that would be good for parents to meet for a Bible Study as well. We're open to ideas!

2. We began conversation on how we can better follow-up with visitors (home visits, welcome packets, etc.)

3. We would like to begin a community garden next year. Any new garden ideas?

4. Someone in the congregation suggested we try something new with our food pantry Sundays, and so we are looking at ways for those Sunday's to be more effective in terms of helping people remember to bring canned good to church.