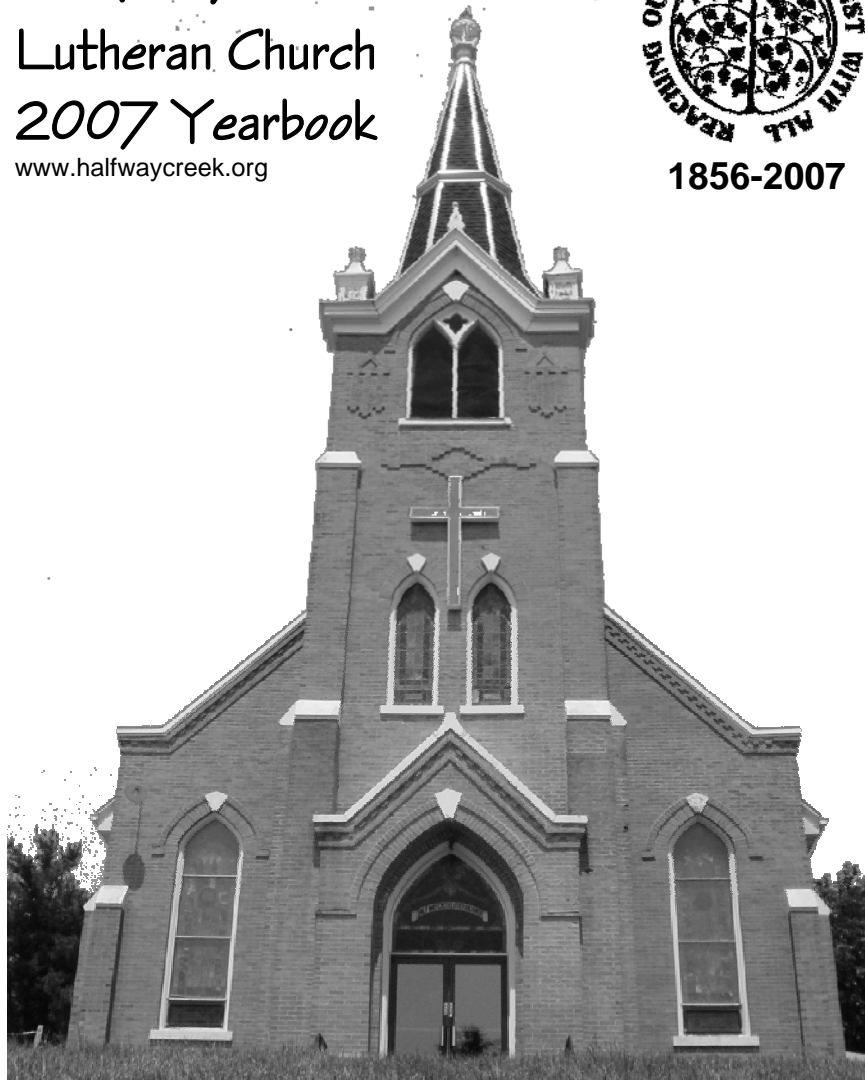


Halfway Creek
Lutheran Church
2007 Yearbook

www.halfwaycreek.org



1856-2007



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Interim Pastor**

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Dear Friends In Christ,

Thank you for your mission support, the money that your congregation passes on the wider church.

The Evangelical Lutheran church in America is a church that matters because faithful members like you have joined hands to do far greater things that any of us can do alone. Together we make a difference in your congregation, our nation, and the world.

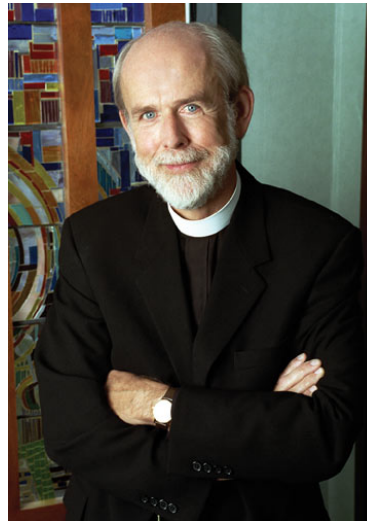
You have shared abundantly in the past year, and I invite you to grow in mission support out of gratitude to God. Our campus ministers and college students depend on your giving, and they thank you. Our missionaries say thanks for your support. First-time hearers of the good news of Jesus Christ say, "Thank you." the children and youth give thanks for supporting them as they grow in God's grace.

At times, it may be a struggle for you and your congregation to give what you pledged. Yet even in those times, we remember the abundance God has so freely shared with us. "God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always giving enough of everything, you may share abundantly" (2 Corinthians 9:8).

In the coming months you will hear the theme, "Stories to Tell and Gifts to Share." We have many stories of what God is doing in the lives of people through our giving.

We have a great story to tell and even greater gifts to share. We have a Spirit-filled legacy to pass on. Thank you for your generous hearts. Through your giving, you make a difference!

Living in God's amazing grace,
Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in
America



The 2007 Yearbook

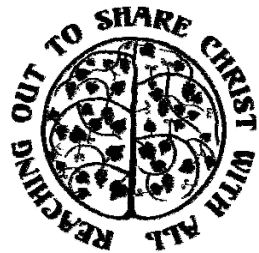
Welcome to the 2007 Yearbook, a tool for you and your family about the ministry of Halfway Creek Lutheran Church. This goal of this publication is to help you stay connected with this ever-changing and constantly growing ministry. You are receiving this booklet because you are a member of Halfway Creek Lutheran Church.

Please use this resource to prepare for the annual meeting, January 21, 2007. Bring it with you to the meeting. It contains many reports.

Use this yearbook throughout the year to answer questions about the ministries we share in the Halfway Creek Area.

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Reaching out to share Christ with all

It's still the mission God gives the people who gather in God's church in the Halfway Creek area. For 150 years God's people have gathered for weekly worship, Christian education, and to be equipped for service in the world. God calls us to be present and strong for the community on whose behalf we are called to serve.

We'll continue the mission God gives believing that God, who calls us into mission, provides all we need to accomplish God's will. We are free to say yes to God's call because as we follow God and enter the mission field using all the gifts God gives, we have all the resources necessary to be successful.

Christ calls us to work for the sake of God's kingdom because God wants the heavenly kingdom to become a reality throughout the world. God's kingdom is a place of healing and comfort where all people are welcomed into the loving embrace of the one who creates, redeems and sustains us.

Agenda for January 21, 2007 Annual Meeting

On Sunday, January 21, 2007, 11:15 a.m., the congregation will meet in Annual Meeting. HCLC's bylaws require that the annual meeting be held on the third Sunday of January.

As per the requirements of HCLC's constitution (C12.09), the church council is making its annual report to the congregation prior to the annual meeting. The 2007 Yearbook, the book in which this agenda is placed, contains these gathered reports.

The agenda of the annual meeting is a reflection of these reports and is presented as a guide for the meeting.

Please use these reports to prepare for the meeting. Other reports, which may not have been ready at the time of this document's printing, may be presented at the annual meeting as an addendum.

Call to Order

Devotions

Approval of Minutes

- January 15, 2006

Reports to the congregation

Comments/questions from the floor on annual reports submitted

Adoption of the 2007 Budget

Elections

Other business

Adjournment

Closing prayer



Proud to be the ELCA!

You are making a difference in the world, and you can feel good about that.

Thank you for your generosity through your regular and designated giving to the

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. These stories illustrate the ministries YOU make possible through your congregation, synod and church-wide organization. As you give your regular offering, remember that it is not just money—it is possibility!

Pastor's Report

Giving Thanks to God
"Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is the steadfast love toward us; and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!" (Psalm 117:1-2)

This past year provided the opportunity to celebrate the 150 years of God's presence at Halfway Creek Lutheran Church. It became a reminder how God has used this congregation to be the mother church to many surrounding congregations and to be the birthplace of Luther College. Those who have gone before us are remembered and not forgotten. Also remembered are those who have been called to word and sacrament ministry in the partnership of pastor and people. I give thanks for the steadfast love of God and the faithfulness of the Lord to this people in this place. I also give thanks for being invited to serve in the La-Crosse Area Synod and here at Halfway Creek Lutheran Church. This congregation stands at an important junction of history. This is an in-between period of installed pastors as this congregation comes to term with the last stage of the journey and prepares to enter into the next stage. Attentiveness is called for in listening to what God is calling the people of faith to be and do in the present and anticipating the future. This congregation has a sound biblically based mission statement in "Reaching out to share Christ with all." The marks of discipleship also come from a sound biblical base: PoWeR SuRGe: Pray without ceasing, Worship weekly, Read

the Bible daily, Serve others without expectation of return, build Relationships that foster faith, and Give generously.

Even as this congregation welcomed the newcomers of the pioneer days to a church home, this congregation is planted in a place where the "fields are ripe unto harvest." People continue to move to this area and are in need of a faith community. The challenges that have always been include among others: working for homegrown and transplants to be able to work together; mutual respect is called for in acknowledging that God is the Lord of the church, and God is working to use all people to accomplish the work of the kingdom. Another challenge is respecting diversity while still maintaining unity. The unity of the church comes in making the common confession that Jesus is Lord. Beyond that there cannot be expected to have absolute unanimity on each issue. Still another challenge is to give a witness to the larger world of the church being able to carry out civil discourse in the midst of various perspectives. Those who speak most loudly are asked to spend more time listening. Those who are reticent to say much are encouraged to speak up. The rule of thumb for both is to speak the truth in love.

This church can go forward in confidence trusting in the steadfast love of the Lord and the faithfulness of our God.

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor Lowell Bolstad

President's Report

This is my last year serving as president of the council. I want to thank all who have served in the past several years on the council. Although we face many challenges, the council has always kept in mind the "mission" of Halfway Creek as we conduct the business of God's church. We must always remember what we are all about. "Reaching Out To Share Christ With All," are not just nice words. As Christians, they are words that we should live by. Jesus calls us to make disciples throughout the world. For 150 years, this church has been present and strong in the community we serve as disciples of God. Having said this, it is also important to recognize the importance of our financial offerings. Your regular gifts will make this a strong community of God for another 150 years. Thank you for what you are already doing. Please consider how you might strengthen our community by growing in giving.

2006 was an eventful year at Halfway Creek Lutheran Church. At the annual meeting, the congregation approved a new budget. Included in the new budget was proposal for a new position. By combining parts of the budget already existing, (organist, choir accompanist, and choir director) and by adding a small amount of funding, we created the Director of Music Ministries. Lynn Wegner was hired to fill this position. Later in the year, this step in faith we took would prove to be invaluable. Thank you Lynn for your service here.

One of the findings of the annual meeting was that members were moving forward with the mission, to issue the \$7,000. The challenge amount equaled the consecrated the congregation \$7,000+, a 2005 debt in form of stock. ers, you did celebration congregations for response to the annual

At the annual meeting, I talked about the future. This is something I've thought about at our annual meeting for the past several years. I'm looking at the future with concern over the future of the church. I'm not a recent convert to the congregation, but I've been a member for many years. This is a time when we will be no longer

In the winter of 2006, I moved into the summer. It was hard to raise the money for the Youth Gathering in San Antonio, Texas. I went to Bill Achtenbach and he was cashing the check. I collected at the

(Continued from page 6)

most exciting happen-
year also started at the
eting. One of our parish-
s moved, based on the
ection of this congrega-
ue a challenge to erase
+ debt incurred in 2005.
nge was to raise the
ual to the 2005 debt by
ion Sunday in March. If
gation could raise the
an amount equal to our
would be donated in the
cks. Despite the naysay-
d it. What a great day of
n. I was so proud of our
on that day. Thank you
ding and thank you also
nymous donator.

ual meeting, we also
ut our financial situation.
nothing we have talked
ur annual meetings in the
al years. Recently I was
our 2002 yearbook. Con-
finances was talked
at annual report. This is
nt issue within this con-
but one that has been
ated to you for at least 5
s year's annual meeting
different.

er and spring and well
mmer, our youth worked
se funds for the ELCA
nering held in San Anto-
in July. A special thanks
erkirch for hauling and
e aluminum cans col-
ne church.

(Continued on page 7)

Because of these efforts, most of
the travel, lodging and registration
costs were covered for our youth.
The youth also received a mem-
orial from the family of Conor
McLaughlin to help cover ex-
penses. Thank you for supporting
the youth in their efforts. The youth
attended daily morning and eve-
ning gatherings listening to inspir-
ing music and speakers. They
learned how the ELCA is reaching
people worldwide. Preaching and
teaching about Jesus Christ. I
know they have a better apprecia-
tion of the worldwide ELCA Church
because of their experience. We
also learned about the Hispanic
culture in southern Texas. (Not all
Lutherans are Norwegian.) I en-
joyed being a part of this trip and to
have the opportunity to know some
of our young people better. Par-
ents, be proud of your kids. They
were great.

The reason I was given the oppor-
tunity to experience the Youth
Gathering was the sudden an-
nouncement from Pastor Jordan
that he had accepted a call to an-
other parish. This came as a shock
to most of us. Pastor Jordan
served us faithfully for over 7
years. I know he is missed by
many of you. We must remember
however, we are a community of
God, no matter who is doing the
preaching. Our lives go on and our
service to the Lord remains un-
changed.

In July, the council chose to call an
interim pastor. Pastor Bolstad
came to us at a time when many in
our parish needed special pastoral

care. We thank you pastor for serv-
ing the people of Halfway Creek.

A call committee was elected this
summer to search for our new per-
manent pastor. Thanks to all of you
serving on that committee. I am
excited and look forward to working
with the person who will be leading
this congregation as we start our
second 150 years.

Our ministry is strong and growing.
The amount of time and talent
freely given every year in service to
our mission is amazing. I sincerely
thank you all.

As we enter our 151st year, our
financial situation continues to be a
concern. I am sure this has been a
struggle throughout our history as
a congregation. Talking about
money in our church has always
been difficult for me. I know it is a
very personal decision on how
much to give to support our mis-
sion. I know that Jesus talks about
the issue of money in the bible
more than any other subject, yet
we have a difficult time talking
about giving. What we give to sup-
port our ministry is a personal deci-
sion. I want to thank everyone for
your financial support in 2006. At
the time of this writing, I do not
know how the giving is compared
to 2005. I do know that we must
continue to grow in giving. Please
think of all God has provided when
making your decision of what to
give. Please prayerfully consider
your part in supporting our minis-
tries and what God is calling us to
do.

Submitted by John Daily
Congregational President

Choir Director's Report

REACHING OUT TO SHARE CHRIST'S LOVE THROUGH MUSIC is the mission statement for Halfway Creek's music ministry. During my first year as Music Director at HCLC, I've been thankful for the many musical gifts that God has bestowed on this congregation. We truly are blessed to have so many wonderful singers and musicians in a congregation of this size. I've also been thankful for the dedication of many members who share their musical gifts with the congregation on a regular basis.

Currently, we have two musical groups at Halfway Creek—Choir and Worship Team. Both groups meet on Wednesday evenings. Choir meets at 6 p.m. with worship team following at 7 p.m. As a result of back-to-back rehearsals, we have a few members who participate in both groups. This also enables us to overlap rehearsals when both groups have "joined forces" for a special festival anthem.

Choir's purpose is to provide special music during our regular worship services. Choir typically sings once per month from January through May and then resumes rehearsal after Rally Day. This year, we began our fall rehearsals in October due to the birth of my daughter at the end of September. In 2006, we learned anthems in many different musical styles from traditional 4 part hymns to gospel rock to classical.

Worship team leads services twice per month. Typically, these re-

hearsals are more "informal" meaning we do not use the traditional Lutheran Book of Worship liturgy. This year, worship team led services throughout the entire year including the summer. I appreciate this group's willingness to share their talents year round. This year, we shared a few different liturgies with the congregation: Tree of Life, Cup of Blessing, and an informal liturgy that included some liturgical pieces that we will be learning from the new hymnal.

Worship team and choir joined forces a number of times during the past year: Consecration Sunday, Easter, Pastor Jordan's farewell, Reformation/Anniversary Sunday, All Saints, and Christmas Eve. I appreciate the flexibility of both groups being willing to work together to learn anthems for special services. By having more voices, we are able to learn more complex musical pieces for special festival services. In addition to joining forces for services this year, we also joined forces for a potluck supper at the home of Carolyn Thornton. Thanks to the Thornton family for their hospitality. It was a great way for the groups to socialize outside of rehearsal time.

Currently, choir has about 11 members and worship team has about 11 members. We always have room for new members in both groups and would especially welcome the addition of youth in both groups. You do not need to be a professional musician or even need to read music to join us. We

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welcome anyone who would like to sing or play an instrument with enthusiasm.

In addition, we were blessed this year to have a few individuals who provided special music for services during the summer, Thanksgiving Eve, and Christmas Eve late service. A special thanks to Marge and Raymond Lee, Ruth Scholze, and various members of our choir and worship team who shared their musical talents at other times throughout the year. Please contact me if you would like to share your musical talents at any time. We welcome both vocal and instrumental anthems at any time throughout the year.

Last but certainly not least, I must thank Kathy Johnson in her work as our part-time organist. HCLC is truly blessed to have such a dedicated and capable servant in Kathy. I appreciate her willingness to accompany both traditional and

worship team services. I truly appreciate her flexibility this last year in "juggling" our schedule so that I did not have to be available on Sundays near the time of my daughter's birth. I couldn't ask for a better person to partner with in our music ministry.

In 2007, we anticipate the arrival of the new hymnal. During the course of the year, we will be learning a new liturgy that we will be able to use in a traditional way with organ but also in an informal way with worship team. In addition to exploring the new hymnal, we will focus on adding new members to our ranks in 2007. We would love to have YOU join us to MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE in 2007!

Submitted by Lynn Wegner
Music Director



**Proud to be
the ELCA!**

You support nearly 300 ELCA missionaries and volunteers in 47 countries. For example, you support the work of medical missionaries in Papua New

Guinea. A church-supported hospital there provides affordable care to poor, rural patients. Recently one 10-year-old girl's life was saved. After a poisonous snakebite, her family rushed her to the hospital for the lifesaving antivenom. At \$385 a dose, they could never have afforded it. But thanks to your support, they paid only \$2.

Evangelism Deacon Report

“Reaching to Share Christ with All” is a powerful mission statement. It’s what Christ has commanded us all to do, “go and make disciples of all nations” and reaching everyone with the good news of salvation and eternal life through only Him.

How are we at Halfway Creek Lutheran Church doing this important work that he has commanded in worship, social ministry, and evangelism?

In worship we enjoy different styles of service and music, including different types of weekly communion to all denominations who worship with us. Members get to participate in the musical variety our talented musicians teach and entertain us, praising His name in song. We’ve got to experiment with new music in the new hymnals we will soon be receiving. And we’ve been so blessed with special music from soloists, those doing duets, the choir, Sunday School kids, and the Worship Team.

We’ve loved worshipping in Whispering Pines in the summer, to celebrate a whole year with the congregation’s 150th anniversary. It included worship guest speaker Bishop Larson, followed by a group congregational picture on the front steps, a very informative historical program, followed by potluck and fellowship. Artifacts and old scrapbooks were enjoyed by us history buffs. Past pastors of the church were invited to preach during this year to help in the celebration.

We also enjoyed a special Consecration Sunday service and

dinner at the Holmen Middle School in March, including a guest speaker and collection pledges. We marveled at the service where the bishop from Ethiopia was visiting and guest preacher. How the Lutheran Church has grown so fast there.

Our services each week don’t just happen. We come together gladly and worship with many faithful workers. Besides Pastor leading us, there is a support team, working every Sunday to help the Word sustain us till the next week when we meet again. They include musicians, acolytes, ushers, sextons, lector readers, communion assistants, altar guild, offering counters, janitor, and office workers. This year we’ve experienced wedding, funeral, confirmation, baptism, and even a polka service. We lit candles to those remembered on All Saint’s Day, and told jokes to snub the devil the week after Easter. We enjoy the Sunday School Christmas program and the youth telling us the events at the San Antonio Convention. New membership Sunday saw five new families joining us each week in worship and Sunday School, and the women presenting the Thank offering service. We heard from our Mississippi delegate after returning from the Hurricane Katrina relief effort on the Gulf Coast and was blessed if you were a hunter or a pet.

Besides worship Sunday, we come together and worship Thanksgiving eve, Christmas Eve,

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Ash Wednesday, Lenten services, and Good Friday. We learn through our Sunday School, confirmation classes, adult forum, and new bible study at our dinner and a movie night.

Our social ministry is trying to find new ideas to include everyone and spark interests in fellowship through the church. Halfway Creek has been involved in various events throughout the year including hosting a pancake breakfast, a lutefisk supper, a strawberry social, Lenten suppers, and Easter breakfast, a brat dinner, a Consecration Sunday catered dinner, a 150th Anniversary potluck and the WELCA hosting a Chicken Q. We are active in collecting food for the local food pantry, collecting donations to send volunteers to the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and collecting cans to support Youth Group projects. At Christmas we support the community by bell ringing for the Salvation Army, giving gifts to those whose child's name appears on the Giving Tree, and Christmas caroling in homes of our older members.

And I cannot stress enough how

invaluable our parish nurse team is here at Halfway Creek. Besides answering questions at any time and doing blood pressure checks after worship services, they were instrumental in having a successful blood drive at the church.

My Lord has moved me to be active in this positive ministry in this congregational family and I'm hoping you'll join me in establishing some future social ministries. All we need is participation, leadership, you, and HIM. I would love to see an older youth group started, a men's organization, a regular community service volunteer group (volunteering on a regular basis at Salvation Army, food pantry, etc.), having a respite for tired parents once or twice a week where the kids could be dropped off at church. And the same respite for the caregiver of the homebound, volunteering a couple hours of relief for a break. This could be the future of things to come with YOUR talents.

Submitted by Susie Johnson
Board of Deacons



**Proud to be
the ELCA!**

How do we fund all that we together as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America? As a response to God's many blessings, you give your offering. Then your

congregation gathers the offerings and uses some of that money to support its ministries. Some of those funds go to support your synod. Some funds support churchwide ministries across the United States and around the world. Here's a little known fact: Some churchwide funds come BACK to your congregation in the way of grants, services, programs and resources.

Christian Education Director's Report

The past year of Sunday School has been a busy one, planned around the teaching of God's Good News. The year started out teaching lessons from the Firelight rotation and changed to Hands on Bible curriculum this fall. The teacher and helps have many talents making our new curriculum a wonderful success.

God's Good News comes across in a way that our students understand the lessons in many different ways. Each module of the Hands on Bible curriculum has a theme that runs throughout the four to five lessons. The lessons contain cool teaching tools revolving around a specific theme such as drama, science or object lessons and are a ton of fun!

Other activities over the past year:

- The Lenten Food Challenge where we have a contest to see which class donates the most food to the food pantry. The teacher's thanked the students with a pancake breakfast after Easter break.
- The teachers hosted a lock-in for third to seventh graders, including movies, games, crafts, devotions, lots of food and little sleep.
- The children sang for Mother's Day.
- The last day of Sunday School in the spring ended with a carnival with Bible games and prizes.
- Near-perfect attendance certificates and gifts were presented to the students.

- Our vacation bible school was a huge success. We had several students attend, and we ended the week with a tour of the Copeland Park train and a picnic supper.
- This year's Half-a-Fest as always was a fun event with a picnic lunch after the service.
- We handed out Bibles to our preschool and third graders.
- We had several children for a bon fire on a very cold evening in October, where we enjoyed smores and hot chocolate.
- We went Christmas caroling including singing to some of our older church members and then returned to church for pizza, games, and a movie.
- We had our annual Christmas program practice that ended with Jesus' birthday party.
- Our Christmas program ended our year.

All of our events and activities happen with many volunteer hours and donations. The future of the Halfway Creek Sunday School program depends upon the continued support of HCLC's ministry. Your regular offerings provide curriculum and supplies for our Sunday School program.

Submitted by Andrea Baxter
Christian Education Director

Minutes of August 6, 2006 Special Meeting

Meeting called to order by John Daily at 10:00 a.m.

John Daily led with prayer.

The Constitution for Halfway Creek Lutheran Church states, that the call committee calls for six voting member of the church.

List of nominees presented: (names given to council members before the special congregational meeting.)

Ruth Scholze
Collin Noel
Margie Lee
Melissa Strauss
Melissa Moss
Joanne Nichols
Brenda Herman

People suggested at the special congregational meeting.

Lee Anderson
Ted Latham
Morgan Jostad
Jen Strangstalien

Motion to close the nominations. Bill Achterkirch 1st, Jill Noel 2nd. Motion carried.

Ballads were handed out. Each voting member of the congregation needs to receive more than 50% of the vote. John Daily, Barb Rudy, and Andrea Baxter counted the ballads.

Results of the first vote:

Ruth Scholze
Collin Noel
Lee Anderson
Morgan Jostad

Jen Stranstalien

Held a second vote to gain a sixth member.

Top two vote seekers, Joanne Nichols and Ted Latham, did not receive 50% of the vote.

Congregation voted again for either Joanne Nichols or Ted Latham.

Joanne Nichols received 50% of the votes and is the sixth member of the call committee. Ted Latham will serve as an alternate.

Call Committee:

Ruth Scholze
Collin Noel
Lee Anderson
Morgan Jostad
Jen Strangstalien
Joanne Nichols
Ted Latham-alternate

Forty-three voting members in attendance.

Motion to close meeting. Bill Achterkirch 1st, Morgan Jostad 2nd. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Lee E. Anderson,
Council Secretary

Trustees' Report

Purpose assigned according to the constitution.

The responsibilities of the Board of Trustees include:

Fiscal Responsibilities: The Trustees receive reports regularly from the treasurer, conduct audits, and prepare a budget for review by the church council.

Property Responsibilities: The Trustees supervise maintenance of church premises, buildings, and property.

Stewardship Responsibilities: The Trustees are given the responsibility of developing and organizing plans for Stewardship Education in the Congregation.

Accomplishments of the past year: Internal audit of financial records by Lise Graham and Gaye Johnson. The Treasurer job was accepted by Gay Johnson after the absence of a treasurer for six months.

Improvement to the parsonage was completed as needed. New carpet in the family room. New flooring in kitchen and bathroom. Carpeting cleaned in family room, living room, and bedrooms. All rooms painted. Cupboards in bathroom and kitchen were refinished. Cleaned and repaired the gutters on the parsonage. Repaired cement in front of garage, and landscaping done on the east side of parsonage to eliminate water in the basement. Altar lighting and outside lighting on the front and back of the church

were completed. Removal of trees in Whispering Pines. Branches removed and brush cleared out in the back area of the church.

In the area of Stewardship, a committee of Thelma Severson, Kermit Jostad, Archie Achterkirch, Andrea Baxter, Mike and Pat Martin, Mel Strauss and Sonja Nelson worked on ways to improve the stewardship of HCLC. Consecration Sunday was held on February 16, 2006 with Mark Quade as speaker. The event was attended by 125 with additional carry outs.

Temple Talks were held on Sunday mornings.

A Strawberry Social consisting of creamed chicken over baking powder biscuits and strawberry shortcake was held on June 25, 2006. Tickets sold was 107 and with the matching funds of \$250 from Thrivent a check was given to the Onalaska-Holmen Food Pantry in the amount of \$672.15.

Pancake breakfast was also repeated this year.

Annual lutefisk was held on October 14. Tickets sold was 562, this figure including the workers and carry outs.

Profit from the supper was \$1,017.10, matching funds from Thrivent \$750. for a total of \$1067.10 going to the church General Fund for maintenance and repairs.

Stewardship Sunday was held on December 10. Members of the

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(Continued from page 14)

congregation gave their intent for 2007 in a sealed envelope with return address and placed it on the altar. This signifying their gift to God for the year of 2007. These intents are between the member and God and will not be opened. During the month of November 2007 the intents will be mailed back as a reminder of their intent made between them and God.

Special thanks to Richard Pedretti and his family for the exceptional job on the church and grounds care.

Also thanks to Mark and Cathy Witte for their care of the HCLC cemetery.

Special thanks to Orin Nyseth, Archie Achterkirch, Morgan Jostad, and Kermit Jostad for their continual hard work on maintenance repairs of the parsonage and church facilities.

Trustee goals for 2007:
Continue stewardship program with efforts to increase attendance to achieve a 50% growth in giving.

Submitted by Thelma Severson,
Mike Martin
Board of Trustees

150th Anniversary Celebration

Called + Gathered + Sent: 150 years of ministry was celebrated in 2006 at Halfway Creek Lutheran Church. Historical articles were written for the monthly newsletter. A church photo directory was published along with the anniversary creamer and cookbooks. Pastor Garman preached in October, and Bishop Larson preached at the final celebration on Reformation

Sunday, followed by a potluck dinner. Ruth and Hannah Scholze did historical displays and a power point program on the church history with the Holmen Historical Society and Reformation Sunday. A special thanks to everyone who celebrated with us throughout this historic year.



**Proud to be
the ELCA!**

the ELCA is really doing a lot, and I'm a part of all this good!

**Look at all the ministries
You make possible** through HCLC, the synod and the ELCA. As you learn the stories of our work together, you will proudly say, "Wow

Women of the ELCA Report

As a community of women created in the image of God we are making bold strides in being better stewards of our bodies spiritually, physically and emotionally. The women are called to:

- Act boldly when God calls
- Act boldly through prayer
- Act and celebrate

Women of the ELCA are making a difference in the world in which we live. Journey with women bold in community:

- January—Ruth—Ruth 2:8-23
- February—A wise woman—2Samuel 20:15-22
- March—Noah & her sisters—Numbers 26:33, 27:1-7
- April—Cousin Elizabeth—Luke 1:39-56
- May—Rachel—Jeremiah 31:15-17
- June—Euodia & Syntyche—Philippians 4:2-3
- July—Esther—Esther 4:1-17
- August—Unnamed woman—Matthew 9:18b-26
- September—Daughters of Job—Job 1:3, 42:12-17
- October Eunice & Lois—2 Timothy 1:3-7
- November—Hagar—Genesis 16:7-15
- December—Philip's Daughters—Acts 21:8-9

Each monthly newsletter in 2007 will have a devotional reflection to guide us in our faith journey.

The women at Halfway Creek Lutheran Church were active in 2006 supporting the 150th anniversary of the church by selling anniversary creamers and cookbooks. A big thank you to Sonya Mix in these projects.

In October the women sent 18 school kits, 4 health kits, 12 layettes, and 63 quilts on the boxcar for Lutheran World Relief. In addition 18 quilts were donated to the Salvation Army.

The women are leaders in the Befrienders Ministry when they do their monthly prayer visits with the congregational members unable to get to church.

The funeral committee continues to be faithful in providing food for families who have lost their loved ones. The women also helped in leading the annual Thank Offering Service and the Fall Bazaar.

Our mission as women of the ELCA is to mobilize women to ACT BOLDLY on their faith in Jesus Christ. The women at Halfway Creek Lutheran Church continue to listen to God's calling in our church, our community, and our world. In 2007 we will continue to support the church with all the mission ministries identified in the women's financial report.

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Women of the ELCA 2007 Calendar

February and March

- Quilting starts on February 6

March 17

- WELCA meeting, 1:30 p.m.

April and May

- Chicken Q
- Synodical Convention on April 21, 2007
- Begin collecting LWR items
- Rummage Sale

June 5

- Summer Event

June 12

- Hearten House at 2:00p.m.

June

- Strawberry Social

July

- Bake Sale

August 15

- Noon Salad Luncheon

September 22

- Regular Meeting—Organize LWR Kits

October 13

- Lutefisk Dinner

October 20

- Fall Workshop

October 25

- Make Flat Bread

October 27

- Fall Bazaar

November

- Thank offering

December 8

- Regular Meeting at 1:30 p.m.
- Fruit Baskets
- Mission Fund Dispersments
- \$5.00 Gift Exchange

Submitted by Ruth Scholze
Women of the ELCA



Proud to be the ELCA!

You help people break out of the cycle of poverty and hunger. Your gifts to the Hunger Appeal make a world of difference to this village in Haiti. You helped

provide a new school, six coffee cooperatives, hearty breeding pigs and small businesses that mean a brighter future for these families. This is only one example of how the ELCA responds to hunger by providing relief, development, education and advocacy—all outside the church's regular budget. This ministry is made possible through extra-mile giving to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

Membership Statistics, 2006

	Baptized	Baptized and Confirmed
Membership December 31, 2005	357	271
Members Received in 2005		
By Baptism	4	
By Affirmation of Baptism		
By Transfer from other ELCA Congregations	18	8
By Transfer from other Lutheran Congregations		
From Non-Lutheran Congregations		
Adjustment (error corrections)		
Total Received	22	8
Youth Confirmed		6
Members Removed in 2006		
By Death	4	4
By Transfer	5	3
Removed for other reasons and/or at their request	3	3
Total Removed	12	10
Membership December 31, 2006	367	275

Members Received

By Baptism

Erica Kay Nichols	06-April-06
Katherine Elaine Lavold	24-Sept-06
Isaiah Xavier James Gassen	24-Sept-06
Carilyn Grace Daily	10-Dec-06

Members added by transfer and/or Affirmation of Baptism

Kimberly Johnson, Kendra Johnson, Zachary Johnson; Kathie Severson, Kayla Severson, Dylan Severson; Ryan Johnson, Michelle Johnson, Caitlyn Johnson, McKenzie Johnson, Cole Hoffman, Cali Hoffman; Shawn Wegner, Lynn Wegner, Jacob Wegner, Hannah Wegner; Bill Riordan, Laurie Riordan

Members removed

By Death

Palmer Joseph Johnson	09-Aug-06
William Engstad	31-Aug-06
Marjorie Casberg	02-Sept-06
Constance Knudson	15-Oct-06

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Removed At their Request

Warren Bey, Carolyn Bey, Pastor Lindsay Jordan, Paul Jordan, Sam Jordan

Removed Through Membership Review

Mark Anibas, Angela Shafer and Matthew Burany

Weddings

Thomas Zimmerman and Cary Johnson	18-Feb-06
Ryan McCarty and Cathie Hauser	11-Mar-06
Ryan Johnson and Michelle Hoffman	11-Mar-06
Joshua Hiles and Valerie Kinder	01-July-06

Confirmation, May 7, 2006

Lucie Marie Borden, Lacey Jean Daily, Jennifer Lynn Lehrke, Melissa Ann Moss, Amber Lynn Nelson, Cassie Elizabeth Noel

Worship Statistics

Worship Attendance

Average	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Spring	94.57	98.36	125.10	108.50	107.20	107.60	120.76	100.94
Summer	73.08	82.43	86.29	91.62	89.43	78.53	68.00	74.59
Fall	103.60	120.65	118.59	108.94	122.00	112.00	110.47	80.83
Year	91.63	101.30	112.52	104.16	111.80	100.32	101.26	85.66

Sundays in 2006: 53

Services held in 2006: 86



**Proud to be
the ELCA!**

You support 135 outdoor ministries that serve 450,000 people year-round. Sugar Creek Bible Camp in Ferryville, WI is an important part of the Church's mission.

It strengthens children and congregations by providing summer programs to kids and year-round ministries to people of all ages. Halfway Creek Lutheran's church council has used Sugar Creek facilities many times for leadership development.

What does God call you to give each week?

A challenge for all members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is to increase your giving through the congregation by 1% of your weekly income, and to consider similar growth at least annually, moving toward and beyond a tithe (10%) of your income.

Why is it important to give? As members of Halfway Creek Lutheran, our gifts are the sole means of income to support the ministry. Our mission is growing, Our giving needs to grow so we can effectively “Reach out to share Christ with all.”

Worksheet

Individual or household weekly income: _____

Current weekly giving: _____

Use the chart below to find the percentage closest to your current giving:

If I grew 1% in my giving, my offering would be: _____

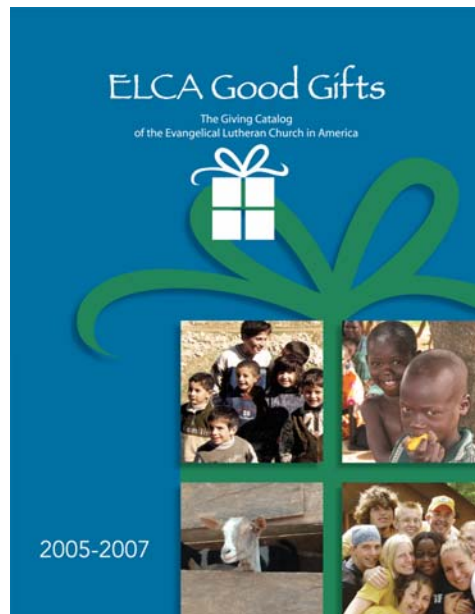
My new weekly giving amount from the chart below: _____

Annual Income	Weekly Income	Weekly Giving						
		15%	12%	10%	8%	7%	5%	3%
5,200	100	15.00	12.00	10.00	8.00	7.00	5.00	3.00
6,500	125	18.75	15.00	12.50	10.00	8.75	6.25	3.75
7,800	150	22.50	18.00	15.00	12.00	10.50	7.50	4.50
9,100	175	26.25	21.00	17.50	14.00	12.25	8.75	5.25
10,400	200	30.00	24.00	20.00	16.00	14.00	10.00	6.00
11,700	225	33.75	27.00	22.50	18.00	15.75	11.25	6.75
13,000	250	37.50	30.00	25.00	20.00	17.50	12.50	7.50
14,300	275	41.25	33.00	27.50	22.00	19.25	13.75	8.25
15,600	300	45.00	36.00	30.00	24.00	21.00	15.00	9.00
18,200	350	52.50	42.00	35.00	28.00	24.50	17.50	10.50
20,800	400	60.00	48.00	40.00	32.00	28.00	20.00	12.00
23,400	450	67.50	54.00	45.00	36.00	31.50	22.50	13.50
26,000	500	75.00	60.00	50.00	40.00	35.00	25.00	15.00
28,600	550	82.50	66.00	55.00	44.00	38.50	27.50	16.50
31,200	600	90.00	72.00	60.00	48.00	42.00	30.00	18.00
36,400	700	105.00	84.00	70.00	56.00	49.00	35.00	21.00
41,600	800	120.00	96.00	80.00	64.00	56.00	40.00	24.00
46,800	900	135.00	108.00	90.00	72.00	63.00	45.00	27.00
52,000	1000	150.00	120.00	100.00	80.00	70.00	50.00	30.00
65,000	1250	187.50	150.00	125.00	100.00	87.50	62.50	37.50
78,000	1500	225.00	180.00	150.00	120.00	105.00	75.00	45.00
91,000	1750	262.50	210.00	175.00	140.00	122.50	87.50	52.50

Thank you for supporting God’s work in the Halfway Creek area!

Give gifts that make a difference through the ELCA.

Through special giving you can honor of somebody special or remember a loved one who has died. Ask Pastor Jordan for a copy of the ELCA Good Gifts Catalog or visit <http://www.elca.org/goodgifts/index.html>



Caring for Neighbors... close to home

In September 2004, floodwaters generated from Hurricanes Frances and Ivan filled John and Gloria's home in Derwent, Ohio. With John on disability, Gloria needed to quit her job to begin rebuilding their home and their lives. Your "Good Gifts" to ELCA Domestic Disaster Response (DDR) helped John and Gloria replace drywall, insulation, and flooring in their home.

There are countless stories of how ELCA Domestic Disaster Response provides for needs not covered by insurance or agencies, responds to the needs of children through "Camp Noahs," and offers spiritual care and counseling for those offering and in need of help.

\$13 buys a bundle of roof shingles

\$40 buys a 50-pound bag of nails

\$250 sends a child to a "Camp Noah," a one-week day camp

\$1,125 replaces plywood subflooring

Membership Directory

