



CURRENTS

MAY 2016

PASTOR NOTES

By now I have met many of you at Half Creek, but by no means all or even most of you. I will continue to confuse names more than faces or conversations and ask for your patience. In fact, patience is the order of the day. Now that Easter is with us and spring has sprung, there is all kinds of energy for projects, old and new.

In our congregation, members and families claim many different places on a line that includes “time to move on quickly”, to sadness or loss or not ready for anything or anyone new. The reality that comes with any major shift is that all of these feelings and responses are woven into the fabric of life together. They are like pieces of the same quilt: full of memories, and being readied for a new use.

Patience, and a slightly slower pace, the kind suggested by 1 Corinthians 13...you know the part: “love is patient, love is kind...” is what will help us to hear each other and the variety that makes us rich and strong in God’s love. The sorting and fine tuning of communication and structure that we need is not a bad thing. It is the result of abundance: abundance of your spirit and God’s spirit that has created new life, new space and new members. When we grow, we need ways of doing that fit our new size and shape.

So we move ahead with many things and take it slowly as we sort out others. It is a good time to ask several questions. Who needs to be in on decisions? Who at least needs to be asked? Who needs to be informed of the results. Do we need to check the master calendar? These are little things, but they can make the path smoother and shorter in the long run. New members, confirmands, office positions are all moving along. Work on finances and stewardship and property are taking shape. Spring has sprung.

The tomb is empty and Jesus is with us. Now and on the road ahead. If we walk slowly enough to chat with others along the way, we will find the new life that surrounds, all of us. I thank you all for allowing me to walk with you in these days. The Peace of Christ IS ours. Pastor Janet

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

WORSHIP LEADERS	3
MAY BIRTHDAYS	4
STEWARDSHIP NEWS	5
VISION BOARD MINUTES	6
TREASURER’S REPORT	7
WELCA	8
ELCA WORLD HUNGER-	9
NEWSLETTER DEADLINES	10
WALK FOR WATER	11

HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH

W6016 County Road W
Holmen, WI 54636
Phone 608-526-3701
Pastor Janet Wollam
Worship at 8 & 10:30 a.m. on Sundays;
Summer schedule begins 5/22
www.halfwaycreek.org

Return Service Requested

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours will be varied in May. If you need to reach Lynn Wegner, you may leave a message on the answering machine or e-mail her at assistant@halfwaycreek.org.

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Holmen, WI 54636

NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK

CONFIRMATION ON MAY 1

Confirmands will be affirming their baptism in the Rite of Confirmation on Sunday, May 1 at the 10:30 a.m. worship. Support our young people on this milestone of their faith journey! The Confirmands this year are: Kyron Drugg, Bryce Hale, Jameson Happel, Savannah Horstman, Kohl Linberg, Jackson McCoy, Zach Mueller, Ben Olson, Alyssa Rink, Jacob Thornton, & Jacob Wegner.



HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES

On June 5 at our 9 am service, the high school and college graduates will be honored. Please contact the church office by May 15 if you are graduating this spring.



MAY SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

May 1st & 8th: 9:15am Sunday school
May 15: Last day of Sunday School & kids plant seeds in the garden

MAY & SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

May 15—PENTECOST—ONE SERVICE at 10:30 a.m. with Global Potluck to follow the service
May 22—One Service at 9:00 a.m.—SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS
May 29—One service at 9:00 a.m.



SUMMER USHERS AND ACOLYTES NEEDED

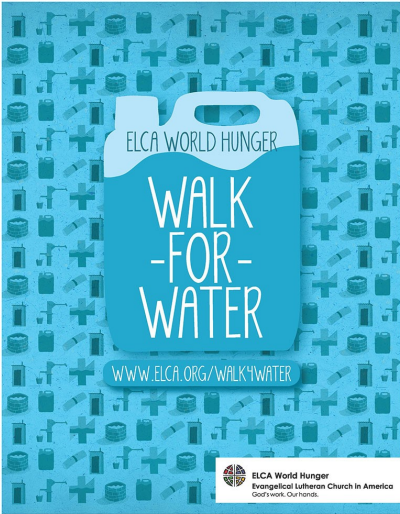
Are you interested in helping out at worship services this summer? We typically have confirmation students and their families Usher and Acolyte, but in the summer, we open this up to anyone that wants to help. This is open to people of all ages. Families with young children may want to volunteer as a way to introduce them to serving in the church. Your duties are to light the candles before service, hand out bulletins and take up the collection. If we get enough volunteers, you may only be asked to do this once this summer. Please look for a sign up sheet during Worship services in May. You will also be able to sign up online via a link in the email announcements.



NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK



WALK FOR WATER PHOTOS



CURRENTS SUBMISSION DEADLINES

If you would like something put in our monthly newsletter, please submit your item by the following dates. The best way to do this is to e-mail assistant@halfwaycreek.org.

It is our desire to have our newsletter into your hands by the first of each month and the only way this can be accomplished to follow these deadlines. Thank you.

Issue	Submissions Due
June 2016	May 16
July 2016	June 20
August 2016	July 18
September 2016	August 15
October 2016	September 19
November 2016	October 17
December 2016	November 21
January 2017	December 19

BUILDING USE REQUEST FORMS

Just a friendly reminder about the procedure for requesting building use here at Halfway Creek. If you are interested in using space here at the church, **for any reason**, we ask that you please fill out a building use request form. These forms are available outside of the church office, on the church website (under resources), or you may also request a form via email from assistant@halfwaycreek.org. All forms need to be delivered to the office assistant so that she can place your event on the master calendar as well as ensure you that the space is available. Thank you!

CALL COMMITTEE

The call committee was approved at the congregational meeting held on April 3rd. Members of the Call Committee include: Jackson McCoy, Marna Holley, Jen Strangstalien, Gaye Johnson, Travis Hortstman, and Rich Berger.

OUTREACH/FELLOWSHIP

The Outreach/Fellowship Team is in need of team members. If you enjoy planning events we need your help. Outreach coordinates opportunities that join our congregation and community. Fellowship plans events that provide social interaction between members of our congregation. If interested, please contact the church office at 526-3701 or assistant@halfwaycreek.org.

NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK
SERVING OTHERS IN OUR CONGREGATION

		ACOLYTE	SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	OFFERING COUNTERS	LECTOR	COMMUNION ASSIST.	USHERS
MAY 1	800		Mike Martin	Carrie Payne Nicole Stumlin	Rhonda Britton Sonja Nelson		Mike Martin	Sally Johnson Lee Anderson
	1030		Morgan Jostad				Lee Anderson Strangstalien's	
MAY 8	800		Stan Schwier	Karla Johnson Hannah Scholze	Bette Pedretti Susan Jostad	Cassie Tremain	Jackson McCoy	Cassie Tremain
	1030		David Chase			Meredith Conn	Brooklyn Cook	Conn Family
MAY 15					Volunteers Needed			
	1030		Archie Achterkirch	Diane Jostad Nancy Holley		Amy Noel & Lee Anderson		Niedercorn
MAY 22	900	Max Hammond	Dave Bringe	Bette Pedretti Barb Hale	Joe Noth	Max Hammond	Sally Johnson	Hammond Family
MAY 29								
	900	Volunteer needed	Russ Bringe	Diane Jostad	Volunteers needed	Pat Martin	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed

NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK
MAY BIRTHDAYS



1	7	14	22
Abigail Fredrickson Lise Graham	Joshua Daily	Sayde Nelson Wesley Witte	Jan Werner
2	8	15	24
Shayne Herman Keena Noth Melissa Strauss	Seth Heiser Megan Jostad-Myhre Samantha Hammond	Charlie Jenks Kermit Jostad	Barb Hale James Noel
3	9	16	25
Tina Mueller	Evlyn Clark	William Achterkirch	Priscilla Achterkirch Jon Strangstalien Olivia Temp
4	10	17	26
Laura Arnold Nancy Holley	Lauren Bringe Samantha Daily Patricia Krause Betty Schmidt	Roger Casberg Nicole Plomedahl	Chelsey Bauer Ashton Herman
5	11	19	27
Paul Anderson Lyle Gordon Joseph Noth	Mary Severson	Susan Chase	Susan Anderson Lucie Borden Jeffrey Severson
6	12	20	31
Benjamin Johnson	Samantha Stenson	Dylan Severson	Pamela Gran



Did we miss your birthday? Please call the church office (526-3701) to help us update our records. Thank you.

Holy Cow!
Have you herd?



We're on the Mooove to stomp out hunger!

Team up with others from your congregation to "buy a cow" for our 2016 campaign to end world hunger. Each cow represents \$500.

Paint and decorate your wooden cut-out cow. Be creative. All cows will be on display at the Synod Assembly in June.

Sponsored by the La Crosse Synod Subcommittee on World Hunger

HOLY COW: HAVE YOU
HERD? WE'RE ON THE
MOOVE TO STOMP OUT
HUNGER!

HCLC will be working to "buy a cow" for the Synod's 2016 campaign to end world hunger. Each wooden cow represents \$500. Here is how you can help:

May 15th—Noisy offering at our 10:30 Pentecost service.

May 22nd—We will be selling smoothies after the 9:00 am service.

May 8th-May 29th—Share Food with All will be selling Great Lakes Scrip. Get your gift cards! They make great gifts for graduates and Father's Day!





WOMEN OF THE ELCA

LA CROSSE SYNOD NORTH CONFERENCE SUMMER EVENT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2016

HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH

W6016 County Rd W, Holmen, WI

8:30 AM Coffee & Registration, \$10.00 covers lunch

9:15 AM Opening Music & Devotion

Presidential Gardeners Program:

This presentation will focus on a few of our past U. S. Presidents who were gardeners. You will be surprised at how our country's founding fathers took both pride and pleasure in growing vegetables, herbs, importing exotic plants, and designing elaborate gardens at their homes before and after the time they spent at the White House. Focusing mainly on the efforts of Jefferson, Adams, and Washington, pieces of their personal plant preferences, gardening philosophy, and lasting horticultural legacy will leave you with even more appreciation for these men that formed our country. The session will be led by Carol Labuzzetta, a Bluff Country Master Gardener Volunteer, who has held certification since 2004 and developed a local after-school garden club for students at Evergreen Elementary in Holmen.

RSVP by June 1, 2016 to Ruth Scholze

Call 608-526-3064 or email escholze@centurytel.net

NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

THERE IS A NEW TEAM AT HALFWAY CREEK: THE STEWARDSHIP TEAM!

As we have begun our work, we have used the book, "Ask, Thank, Tell" by Charles R. Lane as the basis of our devotion and prayer. This has given us a strong base for our work.

Chapter 1: The goal of our stewardship ministry is to help God's people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents, and finances God has entrusted to them. Focus on the giver's need to give, not on the church's need to receive.

Chapter 2: God has created all that is, and God continues to own all that is. Everything we have still belongs to God. We are given the privilege and responsibility to care for that which belongs to our heavenly Father.

Over the next year, our team will focus on "Ask, Thank and Tell". We want to partner with you to support a place where stewardship is grounded in God's Word, a place where faithful giving is an important part of faithful lives.

Next meeting is May 22 after the service – Anyone is welcome!

Team members: Sonja Nelson, Nic Hill, Kermit Jostad, Carolyn Bjerke, Lynn Wegner, Earl Hammond and Amy Noel

YOUTH GROUP THANK YOU

A big thank you to everyone who helped out and participated in our Lent dinners this year! The youth had a great time interacting and participating in serving the dinners as well as Easter Breakfast. We are all getting very excited for the upcoming Youth Mission Trip to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation!

OFFERING COUNTERS NEEDED

We are in need of offering counter volunteers to count on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sunday of the month. Please contact Rhonda Britton at 526-3867 or the Church Office at 526-3701 if you are willing to volunteer.

HCLC CEMETERY ASSOCIATION UPDATE

As a result of the HCLC Cemetery Association's annual meeting on Feb. 14, 2016, the price of gravesites will immediately increase to \$200.00 for members of HCLC and \$400.00 for any non-members. This is still a closed cemetery and non-members will be considered based on family relationship or for cremation use after consideration by the cemetery board. After May 31, 2016, the price will increase to \$300.00 for members and \$600.00 for a non-member after cemetery board consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Raymond Lee, 608-526-3900 or 608-769-6964.

NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

VISION BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 2016

Present: David Gates, Rich Berger, James Bringe, Rick Jones, Joanne Nichols, Joe Noth, Jen Stangstalien & Pastor Janet

Dave Gates called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm

Pastor Wollam led us in devotion. Each member reflected on something that is affecting them. Pastor than led us in a moment of silence and a prayer.

Lee Anderson gave an update on the youth group and confirmation. 11 members of the youth will be going on the trip this summer to South Dakota. Mark Craig will be the male chaperone for the trip. Fundraising has gone well and enough has been raised to cover registration and the van rental so far. There are more upcoming fundraising events including a Pampered Chef fundraiser and Easter Breakfast. Confirmation will be on May 1st with 11 confirmands. The youth will also be participating in the Walk for Water at Valley View Mall on April 9th.

A motion was brought to approve the Interim Pastor contract for Pastor Janet Wollam for three-fourths (3/4) time by Rich Berger. The salary breakdown will be \$53,000 salary and \$6,781 housing allowance. This split was based on the three-quarters (3/4) allocation below which fits in the 2016 budget.

Salary 25 years-experience	\$49,500 X .75	\$37,125
30% Housing	\$14,850 X .75	\$11,138
10% Pension	\$6,435 X .75	\$ 4,826
Social Security	\$4,923 X .75	\$ 3,692
Health Care		\$ 3,000
Total		\$59,781

Joanne Nichols seconded. The motion was approved.

A motion was brought to approve the job description and job posting for the Office Assistant Position for 20 hours a week and not to exceed 25 hours per week by Jen Strangstalien. Rick Jones seconded. The motion was approved.

The year-end report that is due to the synod was discussed. Many of the items for this report have been prepared. We just need to collect them from the individual members to complete the report. This item was tabled for now.

The formation of the call committee was discussed including possible call committee members. A meeting was set to elect the call committee members after the second service on Sunday April 3, 2016 at approximately 11:30 am.

NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

VISION BOARD MINUTES CONTINUED

The minutes from the previous Vision Board meeting on Thursday February 11, 2016 were reviewed. A motion was brought by Joanne Nichols to approve the minutes. Rick Jones seconded. The motion was approved.

Old business was discussed including the updated church directory, nametags for worship services, and new member classes. Dave will discuss the directory with the youth group as a possible fundraiser opportunity. We will get nametags ordered for use at an upcoming worship service. New member classes will be discussed with the Evangelism and Discipleship Team. We are looking to create a recurring schedule for these new member classes.

The next Vision Board Meeting was changed from the second Thursday in April to the third Thursday in April. The next meeting will be on Thursday April 21, 2016.

Joanne Nichols led the vision board in a prayer.

Rich Berger made a motion to adjourn. Joe Noth seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.

Faithfully submitted,

Joe Noth

TREASURER’S REPORT

Profit & Loss statement for January 1—April 20, 2016

General Fund Income:	\$ 40,119.86
General Fund Expenses:	\$ 37,661.55
General Fund Net Income:	\$ 2,458.31

DONATING ITEMS TO CHURCH

The congregation appreciates the generosity of its members who want to donate items to the church. However, some teams are still in the process of determining how some of their dedicated funds will be spent on items still needed for the church. If you are considering donating an item to the church, please contact Archie Achterkirch at 608-790-5621 or a member of the property team to determine if there is a need or want for a donated item before dropping it off at the church.

If you would like more details on the financial statement please contact Bob Bandoli at robertbandoli@hotmail.com