



Halfway Creek LUTHERAN CHURCH

CURRENTS

JANUARY 2017

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ANNUAL MEETING—FEBRUARY 5

You are invited to come to the annual meeting in the life of the church as the congregation prepares to move ahead into the future. It will take place after worship on February 5. **THERE IS ONE SERVICE THIS DAY AT 10:30 A.M. WITH THE MEETING AND POTLUCK MEAL TO FOLLOW.** One of the marks of discipleship here at Halfway Creek is to “build relationships that foster faith.” That is what we will strive to do in this meeting and in the life of the church!

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING



We will be participating in the national Souper Bowl of Caring this year. Stay tuned for more information regarding our canned soup drive and annual meeting potluck!

ANNUAL REPORTS

The annual reports will be **emailed** out January 20. They will also be available for pick up at church on Sunday, January 22 and January 29. Please contact the office at 526-3701 if you would prefer a copy to be mailed to you. Please read through it, enjoy the pictures from the last year, and give thanks to God for all that Halfway Creek has done in the last year to “Reach out to share Christ with all.”

YOUR 2016 FINANCIAL RECORD

A copy of your charitable giving to HCLC will be mailed out to you in late January. If you need one before then, please contact the office (526-3701) or email assistant@halfwaycreek.org to obtain a copy of this valuable tax tool. HCLC financial records will be open until December 31, 2016 to accept 2016 donations.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The site profile was approved by the Vision Board on 11-17-16 and submitted to the synod the following week. At this time, we are waiting on the synod. The Call Committee thanks you all for your prayers.



NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK

SUNDAY SCHOOL THANK YOU

On December 11th, we held our annual Christmas Program. It was a great program! This was the first time we held the program at Prairie View Elementary and we received positive feedback about the location change. Thank you again to everyone that worked so hard to make this such a wonderful program. Thank you also to the parents who faithfully bring their children to Sunday School so that we can teach them more about God's love in Jesus Christ. **** Sunday school will resume on January 8, 2016 ****

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School will resume on **January 8th** with a Prayer, Pajamas, Pancakes, & Pals Party! So wear your PJs, bring a friend, and join in the fellowship of breakfast and a movie with your Sunday School friends.

Also mark your calendars for **January 29th**, the Sunday School children will be singing at the 10:30 worship service.

QUILTING STARTS IN FEBRUARY

The Halfway Creek Women of the ELCA will start quilting in February and continue through March; all are welcome to join the fellowship at church. Please watch for more information in the February newsletter.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Theology on Tap will now be meeting at **7:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month** at Two Beagles Brew Pub on Highway 35 in Onalaska. They are scheduled to meet on Thursday, January 12th.

THEOLOGY UNCORKED

Theology Uncorked will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion after the Holmen's Hope Meal on Tuesday, January 31. They will continue to meet the last Tuesday of the month.

NEW MEMBER RECEPTION

We will be receiving new members on Sunday, February 19th at both services. Please contact Pastor Janet if you are interested in joining Halfway Creek Lutheran Church.

FIRST COMMUNION

We will be having First Communion on Sunday, February 19th. If you have a child interested in receiving First Communion, please contact Pastor Janet.

COOKIE WALK THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who made or purchased cookies for our cookie walk. We raised \$172 for our music ministries.

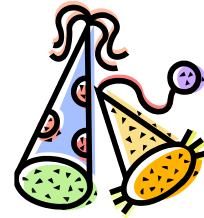
NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK

WORSHIP LEADERS—WATCH FOR EMAIL SIGN-UP FOR JAN.

		ACOLYTE	SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	OFFERING COUNTERS	LECTOR	COMMUNION ASSIST.	USHERS
JAN 1	900		Mike Martin	Carrie Payne Nicole Stumlin	Rhonda Britton Sonja Nelson	Ruth Josatd	No Communion	Volunteer Needed
		No late service				No late service	No late service	
JAN 8	800	Volunteer needed	Stan Schwier	Karla Johnson	Bette Pedretti Susan Jostad	Lee Anderson	Lee Anderson	Volunteer needed
	1030	Maddy Arendt	David Chase			Jen Strangstalien	Kennedy Strangstalien	Arendt/Stauffer Family
JAN 15	800	Volunteer Needed	Archie Achterkirch	Diane Jostad Nancy Holley	Patti Happel Jodi Eide	Cassie Tolvstad	Cassie Tolvstad	Volunteer Needed
	1030	Aiden Noth	Volunteer Needed			Volunteer Needed	Patti Happel	Noth Family
JAN 22	800	Volunteer Needed	Russ Bringe	Barb Hale Bette Pedretti	Joe Noth	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
	1030	Volunteer Needed	Dave Bringe			Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
JAN 29	800	Volunteer Needed	Archie Achterkirch	Diane Jostad	Mike Martin	Cassie Tolvstad	Cassie Tolvstad	Volunteer Needed
	1030	Volunteer Needed	Morgan Jostad			Lee Anderson	Lee Anderson	Volunteer Needed

**NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.
JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

1	10	18	28
Tuck Kinsman	Duane Crocker	Jordyn Stasiak	Ethan Heiser
3	11	19	30
Edward Swackhamer	Edward Scholze	Tammy Howe	Corey Hendrickson
4	12	20	31
John Noel	Mathew Barbour	Donna Anderson	Ellen Stankey
Carrie Payne	13	22	Ronald Herman
5	14	23	
Jeramia Stankey	Zachary Mueller	Kathie Severson	
6	15	25	
Keith Casberg	Mary Jane Nelson	Chance Brandau	
Audrey Clark	Trevor Plomedahl	26	
Petra Nedoba	17	Erica Nichols	
7	18	Melissa Noth	
John Stasiak	Richard Jones	Matt Rink	
9		Camden Thiele	
Paula Hammes			



WINTER JAZZERCISE SESSION

Start the New Year out right by joining our 8 week Jazzercise session. Jazzercise is a pulse-pounding, beat-pumping fitness program that gets you results...fast. It's a calorie-torching, hip swiveling, Shakira'd-be-proud dance party with a hot playlist to distract you from the burn. Classes will be held on Monday and Thursday afternoons from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm. The 8 week session will run from January 9th through March 1st and the cost is \$70 for members and \$80 for non-members. You do not need to be a member of Halfway Creek to join the class, so invite your friends. If you would like more information or are interested in signing up, please contact Becky Brudos at bbjazzercise@gmail.com or 608-792-2735.

**NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.
VISION BOARD NOVEMBER 2016 MINUTES**

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m. By Dave Gates
Pastor led us in a devotion. Approved minutes from October 2016 meeting.

Bob Bandoli gave financial report. The finance team is working on simplifying and working towards more transparency with church finances.

Rich Berger gave a call committee report. We made some minor wording changes to the site profile. Rich Berger made a motion to approve the ministry site profile so that it may be sent to the synod. Rick Jones seconded the motion and motion passed unanimously.

Kim Wagner, the office assistant has given two weeks notice so that she can better attend to her family. Lynn Wegner will step in in the short term to help out as well as hiring Jodi Anderson to come in one day per week. We plan to look for a more permanent solution once we get through the holidays.

The board discussed LGBTQ questions and scheduling of congregational conversation sessions.

The board agreed to have pastor take one week off after Christmas and she will return in the office on January 3, 2017.

We closed with the Lord’s prayer. Bob Bandoli made a motion to adjourn. Rick Jones seconded. Meeting adjourned.

FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2017

Total Revenue	\$139,462.17
Total Expenditures	\$132,911.18
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 6,550.99

BUILDING PAYMENTS

Just a reminder that our mortgage payments are a part of our budget and paid from the general fund. Offerings received that are marked for the building fund will be applied directly to the building principal as an additional payment.

It’s 2017 Budget Time!!

Please direct questions and concerns to the FINANCE TEAM.

Robert Bandoli, Treasurer: treasurer@halfwaycreek.org

Carolyn Bjerke, Rhonda Britton, & Joanne Nichols, Financial Secretary

LIVING I

CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION: GENDER, CLERGY, AND MARRIAGE

In October, your Vision Board set aside a Sunday afternoon to prayerfully share their experiences and thoughts on issues of gender diversity. This issue relates to those clergy from which the call committee chooses to receive profiles. In addition, because same sex marriage is now legal in Wisconsin, clergy called to this congregation would need to know the congregation's position on blessing and/or marrying same gender couples.

Following conversation at two Vision Board meetings, the Vision Board would like to involve the congregation in this conversation in two ways:

First, they will sponsor an opportunity in January for the same kind of prayerful sharing that they engaged in during October. This would involve prayer, a circle conversation, and the opportunity to both speak and/or listen to others. Educational and informational materials from the ELCA will also be made available.

Second, there will be an opportunity to express comfort level and preferences on a spectrum in a brief written survey. This survey will be conducted on two Sundays in January, at church. The survey will be a bulletin insert, to be completed and deposited on the same day. Surveys will be available, before, during, and after services.

The conversation will then be returned to the Vision Board for their consideration.

The Vision Board invites all confirmed members of the congregation to participate in this chance to hear from one another in a safe and respectful environment.

Conversation Time:	Thursday, January 19, 2017	6:30 pm
Survey Times, at church	Sunday, January 22, 2017	
	Sunday, January 29, 2017	

Please join us for the opportunity to be the church together.

Your Vision Board:

Dave Gates, James Bringe, Bob Bandoli, Rich Berger, Joanne Nichols, Joe Noth, Rick Jones, Jen Strangstalien, Jordyn Stasiak

A NEW WAY TO NOMINATE VISION BOARD MEMBERS

How do you feel yourself to be called to faithful participation in your congregation? Do you find fellowship and meaningful outreach in engineering a quilt? Do you like spending time with children, teens, or young adults, because they give you energy and a different take on God's world? Do you like to putter with plants or repair things, or make sure someone does? Do you want more input into worship, Bible study, or a time for prayer? In church that is God calling to you, just as God calls you outside our churchy walls and time.

So it is with Vision Board membership. We feel call to discern, to try to see and figure out God's hopes and challenges for us now and for our future. Sometimes we see ourselves doing this, maybe, and sometimes others see that potential in us. This year our nomination process will make room for both our personal calling and the congregation's sense of who would be faithful members.

How it will work:

January 8 & January 15, in each congregation, we will have a nomination process within the worship service.

Everyone present will be invited to nominate one person they believe would be a good and faithful Vision Board member. You can nominate yourself, and if you are unable to attend either of those Sundays, you may ask someone else to enter the name of an individual for you. Nominations will then be closed for the year. The process includes many more people and frames our decision in the language of faithful response to God's call.

Every person nominated will receive a packet of information and be asked to pray and think about their gifts and how they might fit with Vision Board, and with their lives at this time. They will also be invited to a Vision Board meeting in January as an introduction to our process, if they wish to come. A form in the packet will allow every person to accept or decline nomination. **The form will be returned to the office by Friday, January 20th.** Those who accept the nomination by the deadline will be placed on the nominee ballot. **We have openings for 3 to 5 members.**

During the worship service on January 29, those present will choose by written ballot, our Vision Board nominees for 2017. The top vote receivers will be your 2017 Vision Board slate of nominees.

Vision Board will be elected by written ballot at the annual meeting on February 5th. Vision Board *officers* will then be chosen at the first Vision Board 2017 meeting; following annual meeting.

The value of this method is that it builds a sense of the whole church, encourages a confidence shared between membership and leaders, and encourages conversation and self-reflection. Over several years it builds trust and participation.

SO, what do we do now? WE ALL pray for guidance, maybe as we look through the directory. We ask ourselves who we know to be a great listener, whether or not they always share our point of view. We explore the various age groups, including high school students, folks in their 20's and 30's as well as faithful and wise members of long standing. We ask others what they have discovered in their prayer and consideration. We ask "why not", or is there some attitude of our own that is not seeing gifts. We think about open minds and open hearts, that will work to hear God's Word for the years ahead.

Stephen Ministry

Once more the “rush” of the Christmas Season is past and we head into the cold and sometimes dreary month of January. As Christians our hope and faith has been renewed as we celebrated the birth of Jesus. But even Christians face difficult times. For some it may mean the loss of a loved one through death or divorce. Others may be experiencing the loss of a job. Some may be trying to cope with injuries suffered from an accident; others may be dealing with a devastating illness. There are so many people hurting in our church family and community. They find the burden they are dealing with too great to carry alone and are in need of someone who will listen and understand their fears and heartaches.

That is where Stephen Ministry comes in. Stephen Ministers are lay people who are trained to listen with caring and loving hearts and to walk beside those who are suffering, sharing in their grief and pain. They do this in complete confidentiality. If you or someone you know needs a Stephen Minister, please call a pastor who will relay that need to the Stephen Ministry Leaders.

We are also looking for people who are interested in taking the Stephen Ministry training. If you are thinking about it, but are unsure, we will be happy to talk to you about the program. We need six or more people who are interested in the training before we can begin. If you would like to reach out to others with Christ- centered love and caring... **we need you!** Please talk with one of the pastors and/or Stephen Leaders if you would like to learn more.

Colossians 3:12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

YOUTH GROUP HOMEMADE PIZZA SALE

Attention all pizza lovers! Our youth group is busy preparing for this summer's youth faith exploration trip to Lakeside, Montana. We are selling homemade pizzas from now until January 22nd, just in time for the Super Bowl! If you would like to place in an order, please contact one of our youth members or email Cassie Tolvstad at ctremain14@gmail.com . We also have order forms available in this newsletter, at each service and in the office for those interested in ordering a delicious pizza. Pizza delivery will be the week of January 29th.

ATTENTION YOUTH GOING ON THE TRIP: THE DATE & TIME FOR PIZZA MAKING WILL BE SCHEDULED ASAP. PLEASE WATCH YOUR EMAILS AND THE FACEBOOK YOUTH PAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION!



NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT.

CARING TREE MINISTRY

Thanks to all who participated in this ministry. We had tags for 42 children and all were filled! This generosity will go along way in the hearts of those children we touched. Thank you, Bette Pedretti

JANUARY ONE REHEARSAL, MULTI-GENERATIONAL CHOIR OPPORTUNITY

Our January Halfway Choir Opportunity is for those who cannot commit to more than one rehearsal. It is also open to all adults and school age children. This is the perfect opportunity if you like to sing but do not have much time or if you have never sung in a choir before. We will rehearse on Wednesday, January 18th at 7 pm or Sunday, January 22nd at 9:15 am. We will be singing at both services on Sunday, January 22nd. Please note that if you plan on singing at the 8 am service, you must attend the Wednesday evening rehearsal. This opportunity will be led by Lynn Wegner . You can contact her at 608-526-3110 with questions.

HOLMEN'S HOPE BACKPACK MEAL PROGRAM: DONATIONS NEEDED

Holmen's Hope is undertaking another task and hoping our congregation can help. As we know many children in our community are on free and reduced lunches in our local schools. We believe some of these children may go hungry on the weekends when meals are unavailable.

Holmen's Hope has started a Friday back pack program where they fill backpacks with non-perishable or microwaveable meals/snacks the children can take home. The children return the backpacks on Monday and Holmen's Hope refills them weekly.

The school principals and guidance counsellors have been the ones selecting the students/families they feel have the most need.

Here is the list of items Holmen's Hope is asking our congregation to donate for backpacks. Items can be dropped off at the church.

FRUIT CUPS	APPLESAUCE CUPS
JUICE BOXES	GRANOLA BARS
POP TARTS	CRACKERS/CHEESE
CRACKERS/PEANUT BUTTER	MICROWAVABLE MAC & CHEESE
MICROWAVABLE RAVIOLI	MICROWAVABLE BEEF STEW
MICROWAVABLE SOUPS (NO CAN OPENER REQUIRED CANS PLEASE)	BREAKFAST BARS
INSTANT OATMEAL PACKETS	HOT COCOA PACKETS
MICROWAVE POPCORN	SMALL CANS VIENNA SAUSAGES

NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT. CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PICTURES



I JUST WANNA' BE A SHEEP, BAA....



NEWS AT HALFWAY CREEK—CONT. SYNOD NEWS

COMING SOON . . .

January 15-16, 2017
in our synod

A faith-based community
organizing training event

English Lutheran Church 1509
King St., La Crosse

Sunday beginning at 3 pm for
an afternoon/evening session
& Monday until 5 pm



ACTION FOR COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

Come to ACT — Don't miss out on this impactful training in faith-based community organizing!

Working together as a team of 3-5 people that you bring from your congregation or community, you will start to build your skill set. Go home equipped with specific leadership skills to address the justice and peace concerns of your community.

Watch synod web page for more information coming soon, including registration options:

<http://www.lacrosseareasynd.org/faithbasedcommunityorganizing>

Information will also be shared in synod weekly e-letter, the Synod Update. (To subscribe go to: <http://www.lacrosseareasynd.org/synod-news> and click "Subscribe to Weekly Update" button.)

**HALFWAY CREEK
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

W6016 County Road W

Holmen, WI 54636

Phone 608-526-3701

Pastor Janet Wollam

Worship at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
on Sundays

www.halfwaycreek.org

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Holmen, WI 54636
Permit No. 13

Return Service Requested

OFFICE HOURS

The office will be open Monday ,
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from
8:30 am to 1:30 pm. If you need to
reach the office, you may leave a
message on the answering machine
or e-mail at
assistant@halfwaycreek.org.

