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Halfway Creek

LUTHERAN CHURCH

CURRENTS

DECEMBER 2017

DECEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 3rd-8 & 10:30 a.m.-Advent Begins—Pastor Carol Garman

Sunday, Dec. 10th-10:30 a.m.—Sunday School Christmas Program-Pastor Robert Young

We will be having **ONE** worship service on December 17, at 10:30 a.m. In order to accommodate the entire congregation & guests, the service will be held at Prairie View Elementary, 1201 Newport Ln, Holmen. **The Sunday School's Christmas Program will be the message for this worship service along with Holy Communion.** We hope you can join us. Please see page 2 of this newsletter for more information on rehearsals.

Sunday, December 17th-8 & 10:30 a.m.—Music Ministry Sunday-Pastor Chris Hallemeier

The Halfway Choir and Chime Choir will present the program *Peace on Earth* at this service. The youth will have a Cookie Walk in between services at 9:15 a.m. The Sunday School children will celebrate with Jesus' birthday party & shop from Santa's Workshop Christmas Store at 9:15 a.m.

December 24th-4:00 p.m.—Christmas Eve Family Service—Pastor Carol Garman

This family-friendly service features a children's message, special music, and candle lighting.

December 24th-9:00 p.m.—Christmas Eve Service of Light—Pastor Carol Garman

This is a traditional Carol Service with special music and candle lighting.

December 25th—No Service

December 31st-9:00 a.m.—one service only-Pastor Robert Young



As Advent approaches our church building has taken on the Spirit of the Season. A private donation has donned our outdoor canopy with lights and evergreen boughs. Making for an outward sign that HCLC is preparing, watching and lighting the way for the Christ Child to come.

The Joy of Christmas – Coulee Region Gospel Choir – December 1, 2, 3

Take time to relax and enjoy this season with music. No tickets required-free will offering to be received

Dec 1st -7:00 PM & Dec 2nd- 3:00 PM @ Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Onalaska

Dec 3rd – 3:00 PM @ La Crescent United Methodist Church



CARING TREE PROGRAM



The Caring Tree is set up in the Narthex. Please record your phone number on the sheet on the clipboard by the tree when taking a tag. Each child receives two presents. One item is clothing and the other is a fun item. All gifts are **\$25 or less**. **If you would like to spend more than that, please take both tags for that child or select more tags.** We want to keep the amounts of gifts consistent for each child within a family. ***Please return gifts (wrapped, with the tag attached) to church by Dec 11th.*** if you are unable to deliver your gift, contact Bette Pedretti by phone or text at 608-526-3241 or email bettepedretti@yahoo.com. Last year 268 children received gifts.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS—IMPORTANT DATES

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Sunday, December 3rd | Christmas program rehearsal at 9:15 am. |
| Saturday, December 9th– | 9 am Christmas program dress rehearsal at CHURCH (younger kids will come at 9:30 am). |
| Sunday, December 10th | 10:30 am Worship--Sunday School Christmas program at PRAIRIE VIEW ELEMENTARY |
| Sunday, December 17th | Jesus birthday party & Santa's Workshop Christmas Store
The children will have a chance to shop for Christmas gifts for family & friends at our Santa's Workshop. They will pick out gifts (ranging from 25 cents to no more than \$2). |
| Sunday, December 24 & 31 | NO SUNDAY SCHOOL |
| Sunday, January 7, 2018 | Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Prayers, Pajamas, Pancakes and Pals Party |

INTERESTED IN SERVING ON YOUR VISION BOARD?

Do you feel God is calling you to leadership within the church? Would you like to serve as a board member or do you know someone who would do a great job? Vision Board is looking for candidates beginning February 2018. Vision Board members are responsible for overseeing the work of church. Vision board meets monthly and also has occasional special meetings. As church leadership, Vision Board members are also expected to worship regularly and participate in the life of the congregation. We will be using a special nomination process this year. Stay tuned for more information.

If interested or have questions, contact Joe Noth at joe.noth@authenticom.com or any current Vision Board member.

MEET HALFWAY CREEK INTERIM PASTOR, SISTER BECKY SWANSON

Dear people of Halfway Creek Lutheran Church

I am so excited to be called to be with you in ministry, serving as your interim pastor beginning in the new year! I am a Deacon with the ELCA and a member of sub-set of that group called the Deaconess Community (that's where I get the title "Sister".)

In 2014 I took the call to be Director of Contextual Education at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, OH; effectively combining my parish ministry with my leadership development and coaching ministry. That work ended this past spring as Trinity and Capital University-a Lutheran College across the street-worked through a merger and positions were reconfigured.

My husband, Gary Anderson and I have been married for seven years. Since 2012 he has worked for Cokesbury (the publishing house for the Methodist church) and most recently in Columbus as a paid route driver for Meals on Wheels.

To read her complete **Welcome Letter** check out our Facebook and web page along with email announcement. Or stop in the office for a hard copy.

They will be arriving in December. Let us welcome Sister Becky and Gary. Come join us on January 7, 2018 for her first service. She will be installed on January 14th.



December 2017

December 2017

January 2018

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 26	27	28	29	30	Dec 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:00am 8:00am 8:00am 9:15am 10:30am	11:30am Ladies Advent Luncheon-Living Hope, Ettrick- Need to RSVP	6:00pm Theology UnCorked!! (Lori Schipper's Home)	Item Collection for Santa's Workshop Christmas Store 9:00am Pastor's Text Study 6:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal	Item Collection for Santa's Workshop Christmas Store 9:00am Pastor's Text Study 6:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal	Items Needed for Youth 1:00pm Bell Ringing at Holmen Festival Foods	9:30am Christmas Brunch - 7:00pm
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10:30am Worship & Sunday School Christmas Performance (Prairie View)	Currents Deadline	5:00pm Holmen's Hope monthly dinner at American Legion	Item Collection for Santa's Workshop Christmas Store 9:00am Pastor's Text Study 6:00pm Confirmation Class 6:00pm Worship Team	Item Collection for Santa's Workshop Christmas Store 9:00am Pastor's Text Study 6:00pm Confirmation Class 6:00pm Worship Team	9:00am Sunday School Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal	11:30am
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Youth Trip Silent Auc 11:30am 8:00am Jesus Birthday Party 8:00am Music Ministry 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School			9:00am Pastor's Text Study 6:00pm Confirmation Class 6:00pm Worship Team	9:30am NO Bible Study 6:30pm Vision Board		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
8:00am No Sunday School 4:00pm Christmas Eve Worship 9:00pm Christmas Eve Worship			9:00am Pastor's Text Study 6:00pm Confirmation - No Class			
31	Jan 1, 18	2	3	4	5	6
8:00am No Sunday School 9:00am Worship Only						



YOUTH COOKIE DECORATING/MOVIE NIGHT FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8TH; 5 TO 8 PM

Cassie hosting a youth movie night at her house in Trempealeau(N13301 Larkspur Road). We will have pizza with juice and water available as well as some other snacks. We will be watching The Shack and will be decorating some Christmas cookies as well! Please RSVP to Cassie by **DECEMBER 1ST** via e-mail or by phone at 608-738-4761. Please plan on dropping off/picking up your student. Carpooling is recommended.

SANTA'S CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP DONATION ITEMS NEEDED

The Youth Group is looking for donations of gently used household items for the "Christmas Store" they will be setting up for the Sunday School children on December 17. The children will shop for inexpensive Christmas gifts for their family and friends. Some suggested donations are: jewelry (both men and women's), tool kits, belts, purses, scarves, gloves, ties, knickknacks, coffee mugs, toys, puzzles, books. Please bring your donations to church **between Dec. 3rd & Dec. 16th** and put them in the box labeled "Santa's Workshop Christmas Store".

YOUTH ICE SKATING EVENT-DECEMBER 27

There will be a youth outing to the Omni Center on December 27th from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. for open ice skating. If your youth is interested, please let Cassie know by **December 15th** so we can coordinate the details of this event. Lunch will be provided. The cost for rentals is \$3.00 and admission is \$3.00.

BLESSING OF THE HUNTERS WITH PASTOR DAVE BERSAGEL



CONFIRMATION LOCK-IN

On November 3rd, the confirmation students enjoyed an overnight of fun, games, service, and devotion at their first lock-in of the year. They tried their luck at 'minute to win it' games, made toys for the cats and dogs at the humane society, watched a movie and ate lots and lots of snacks. During devotions they discussed their visions for HCLC and the power of friendships. There was even three hours of sleep before a pancake breakfast! All in all it was a fantastic event!



CONFIRMATION CALENDAR UPDATE

December 6— Journey to Bethlehem English Lutheran Church, 1509 King St., La Crosse. Arrive at 6:00 p.m.

December 17—Youth Group Silent Auction
All proceeds go towards the National Youth Gathering in Houston next summer.

December 20—Christmas Party 6:00 pm—7:30 pm

December 27— NO CLASS

January 3, 2018 —Class resumes at 6:00 p.m.



**You Are Cordially Invited to
Halfway Creek Lutheran Church's**

**MUSIC MINISTRY PROGRAM
PEACE ON EARTH**

DATE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH

Time: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. services

Place: Halfway Creek Lutheran Church

W6016 County Road W, Holmen

2½ miles east of Holmen, WI

**A COOKIE WALK WILL BE HELD DURING
THE 9:15 A.M. FELLOWSHIP HOUR**

COOKIES SOLD FOR \$6/LB

Proceeds go to HCLC YOUTH MISSION TRIP

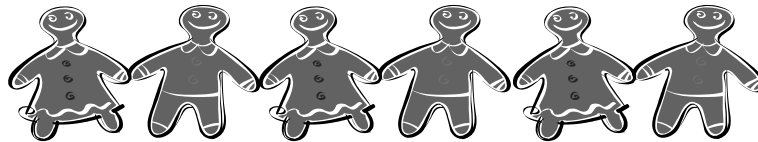


Cookie Donations

We welcome cookie donations of any amount--1 dozen or 10 dozen, you decide. Cookies can be brought to the church narthex on Sunday morning prior to the early service. Cookies will be left in whatever container you bring them in during the walk. Be sure to label any containers you want returned and containers can be picked up after the walk.

You are not required to donate cookies to participate in the walk.

Empty bakery boxes will be provided for people purchasing cookies.

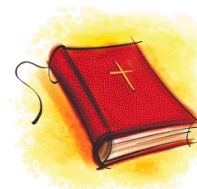


WELCA CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

December 2nd—Mindoro Lutheran Church has invited our ladies to a Christmas Brunch at 9:30 am. RSVP to Mona at 608-857-3474 by December 1st.

December 4th—Living Hope-Ettrick has invited you to an Advent Luncheon at 11:30. RSVP: 608-525-3081. An monetary donation will be taken to help the Food Pantry.

NO Bible Study for December. See you back on Thursday, January 18th. We will be going through Chapter 7 & 8.

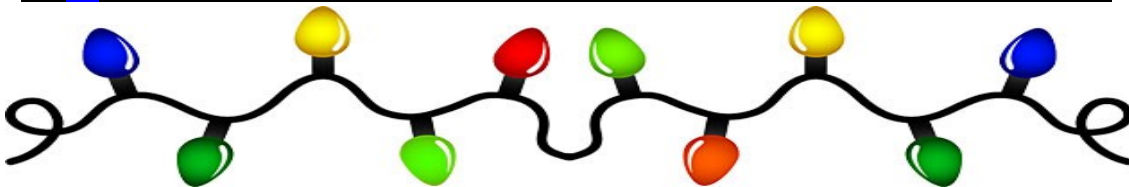


HALFWAY CREEK FOOD CART IS

Please remember when you are shopping to add a few items to feed the Food Cart. Various pantries throughout the area are in need. Lets help them fill the shelves!!

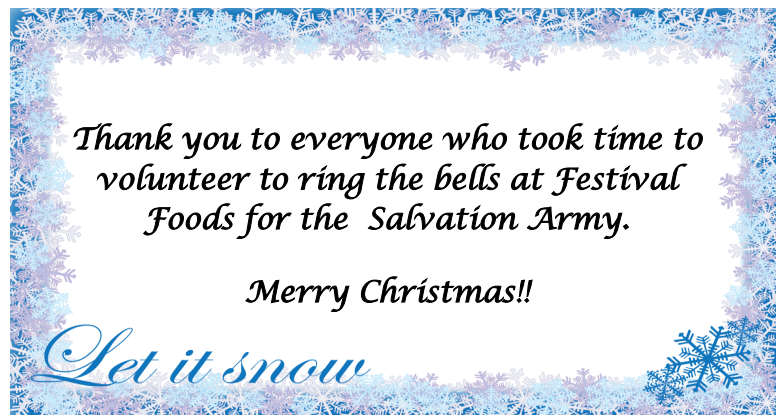
SERVING OTHERS IN OUR CONGREGATION

		ACOLYTE	SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	OFFERING COUNTERS	LECTOR	COMMUNION ASSIST.	USHERS
D E C 3	8 0 0	Jessica Cook & family	Mike Martin	Carrie Payne Nicole Stumlin	Rhonda Britton Sonja Nelson	Ruth Jostad	Ruth Jostad	Jessica Cook & family
	1 0 3 0	Connor Lee & family	Morgan Jostad			Jean Latham	Rayna Hendrickson	Connor Lee & family
D E C 1 0		NO 8 am service	No 8 am service Stan Schwier	Karla Johnson Diane Jostad	Bette Pedretti Susan Jostad	NO 8 am service	NO 8 am service	NO 8 am Service
	1 0 3 0	Joanne & Declan Mihm	ONE SERVICE @ 10:30 A.M. Prairie View Elementary School—1201 Newport Lane, Holmen					Joanne & Declan Mihm
D E C 1 7	8 0 0	Need volunteer	Archie Achterkirch	Diane Jostad Nancy Holley	Jodi Eide Patti Happel	Need volunteer	Need volunteer	Need volunteer
	1 0 3 0	Jen Straingstalien & family	Need volunteer			Need volunteer	Need volunteer	Jen Straingstalien & family
D E C 2 4	4 0 0	Wendy McCoy & Family	Dave Bringe	Barb Hale Bette Pedretti	Joe Noth	Jen Strangstalien	Jen Strangstalien	Wendy McCoy & Family
	9 0 0	Need volunteer	David Chase			Need volunteer	Need volunteer	Need volunteer



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Justin Happel	8 Mason Dokkebaken Trent Gander	15 Mark Thompson	22 Alayna Ruhbusch
2 Maddy Arendt Karsen Nelson	9 Troy Fiers Megan Sacia	16 Cameron Hill	23 David Erdman Benjamin Heiser
3 Matthew Payne	10 Patricia Brandau Brooklyn Cook	17 Lindsay Tuquero	24 Rebecca Moss
4 Alice Jackson	11 Katihryn Yahnke	18 Daniel Daily Michelle Olson	26 Jessica Pedretti
5 Rita Johnson Cameron Legrave	12 Kelly Hanson	19 Owen Bringe	27 Emily Arnold
6 Laura Oines	14 James Bringe	20 Chad Brandau	29 Elsie Barbour
7 Jodi Eide		21 Kelly Anderson	31 Jacob Thornton



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

A very successful Consecration Sunday event was held on November 12, 2017. Pastor Dave Bersagel was the event leader. He shared a very powerful message on being a generous giver. We served approximately 120 guests at our celebration meal. Thank you to L & M Catering of Melrose for their delicious meal.

The following show the results of our efforts.

1. 49 giving units completed an estimate of giving card on Consecration Sunday.
2. A total of 31 of these giving units increased their financial commitment above their last year's amount.
3. A total of 37 giving units filled out *estimate of giving* cards and committed a total of \$94,068.
4. Based on last's year's giving records, we can expect to receive \$47,896 during the coming year from people who have consistent giving patterns during the past 12 months but were not present on Consecration Sunday.
5. Based on the average total of loose offerings during the past three years, we can expect to receive \$4240 during the coming year from that source.
6. This gives us a grand total of \$146,204 anticipated income for the next twelve months.
8. The total income for our general operating budget during the last 12 months was \$164,681
9. **What's ahead ?** Estimate of giving cards went out to all giving units of the congregation who were not in attendance at the Consecration Sunday event. We did have a positive response to that mailing last year. Please take the time to complete the card and return it in the self addressed and stamped envelope.

Halfway Creek continues to be very generous in their giving.

Thank you from the Stewardship Team.

DO YOU PURCHASE GIFT CARDS? CHECK OUT THE SCRIP & SUPPORT OUR YOUTH!

Have you started your Christmas shopping? Please consider supporting our youth by purchasing gift cards through our Scrip program to give as gifts OR to use to pay for your holiday shopping! We have hundreds of retailers available. You can order on Sunday morning at the youth scrip table or sign up online for a Shop with Scrip account. Halfway Creek's Youth enrollment code is 8973A3374414L. Learn more online at www.shopwithscrip.com

VISION BOARD MEETING MINUTES—OCTOBER 19, 2017

Members present include Joe Noth, Bob Bandoli, Jen Strangstalien, John Daily. Joanne Nichols and Rich Berger were excused.

President Joe Noth called the meeting to order at 7:00. Joe led devotion talking about Martin Luther's 95 thesis and the 95 "visions" for HCLC.

Bob made a motion to approve the minutes with noted minor wording. John seconded. Carried unanimously.

Amy Noel reported her progress on updating the HCLC constitution and the changes in the ELCA model constitution since the last update. Three changes stand out since the constitution was update last time. One change to the model constitution has provisions for deacon and deaconess involvement in congregations as ministers of "Word and Service" as compared to pastors as ministers of "Word and Sacrament." Another provision applies to 2 point or more parish's. We are not sure if these provisions apply to HCLC. The third change is clarification of "seasonal members." Amy will continue to work on the constitution.

Amy also brought forward a draft job description changes for the Director of Music Ministries. The Vision Board reviewed the changes. John made a motion to approve the job description as presented. Bob seconded the motion. Carried unanimously.

The Vision board thanked Amy for her hard work on the constitution and with the personnel team.

Jen reported the confirmation class has met a couple of times. Jen, Joanne and Ruth Jostad are leading the confirmation students this year. So far we have 24 students participating. They will have a lock in on November 3. They are focusing on the 10 commandments this year. Sunday School has started with good participation. Sunday school will sing at the 10:30 service at the end of the month.

The Vision Board talked about the nomination process for the vision board in 2018. We will use a similar process as we did last year. Last year we asked the congregation to make nominations of people they feel would make good board members. Those nominated were asked to prayerfully consider their gifts and talents. There are several positions open on the Vision Board now. Bob's term as treasurer will end this year.

Bob gave the treasurers report. The general fund balance is \$2,135.23. The board would encourage congregation members to use "Simply Giving" for their offering. Bob reported that Jodi is doing an awesome job as bookkeeper. The treasurers work will be much more simplified for the next treasurer. Bob reported Ken Morrison looked at our accounting processes and called them "rock solid." The only concern was to make sure we have 2 counters work on the offering together after services. We have had times with only one. Jen made a motion to accept the treasurers report. John seconded. Carried unanimously.

The board talked about records retention policy. Decided to table the issue until we have a pastor serving the church.

We have had some new member requests. The Vision Board will be working to install new members as requested.

Rose has received a request from Pastor Wollam for copies of Vision Board minutes between February and June of 2017. The minutes should be available on our website. The Vision Board instructed Joe to let Rose know she could send the minutes to Pastor Wollam.

John made a motion to adjourn at 7:52. Bob second. Carried unanimously.

**HALFWAY CREEK
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

W6016 County Road W

Holmen, WI 54636

Phone 608-526-3701

Sunday Worship at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m

www.halfwaycreek.org

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Permit No. 13

Return Service Requested

OFFICE HOURS

The office will be open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm. If you need to reach Rose Wegner, you may leave a message on the answering machine or e-mail at assistant@halfwaycreek.org.

