



## CURRENTS

FEBRUARY 2018

### **ANNUAL MEETING—FEBRUARY 4, ONE SERVICE**

You are invited to the annual meeting in the life of the church as the congregation prepares to move ahead into the future. **THERE IS ONE SERVICE 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! **Childcare will be available.**

Schedule for what to bring; if your last name begins with

**A-I: dessert**

**J-R: main dish**

**S-Z: side dish/salad**

### **ANNUAL REPORTS**

The annual reports were emailed out in January. Paper copies are also available at church. 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.” If you did not receive an annual report and you would like one, please call the church office (526-3701).

### **HCLC CEMETERY ASSOC. ANNUAL MEETING**

The annual meeting of the Halfway Creek Lutheran Cemetery Association will be held on Sunday, February 11, 2018 @ 11:40 AM, following the second service @ Halfway Creek Lutheran Church. If you have any questions, please contact one of the Board Members: Raymond Lee, Daniel Brudahl or Mark Witte.

### **ASH WEDNESDAY—FEBRUARY 14**

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14th. We have a worship service that evening at 6:30 p.m. See inside Schedule of Events for all events happening in February.

### **WEDNESDAY LENTEN DINNERS—BEGIN FEBRUARY 21**

Lenten Dinners will be served at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays through Lent. The Lenten Service begins at 6:15 p.m.

## LETTER FROM SISTER BECKY

Dear friends in Christ,  
Grace and peace to you from God our creator and our Savior, Jesus Christ!

One of my guiding principles in my ministry so far - both in and out of a parish setting - has been that **worship is the center of our life together.**

The distinguishing mark of a congregation is not that we are active in serving others (although we are absolutely called to do that) or that we are vocal advocates for the needs and well-being of the "least of these" among us (and we are absolutely called to do that!). The distinguishing mark of a congregation is that **we are called and gathered around Word and Sacraments where God lives and nourishes us and sends us out in service to the world.**

February gives us more opportunities to gather to pray, praise, and lament to God together in worship because it marks the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 14!

Lent is one of those seasons of the year that isn't always clearly understood by Christians (much less the rest of the world.) Lent is one of the oldest practices of the church and while the practice has changed over the centuries and varies between denominations, the marks that Lutherans usually observe are a focus on the spiritual practices of prayer, generosity, and fasting.

Fasting is probably the one that gets the most "press" with it commonly being the season where we talk about "give something up." Too often that "giving up" practice can feel like another shot at New Year's resolutions. Giving up caffeine, or beer, or chocolate for the season. A church-based self improvement plan.

But fasting is better understood not as a deprivation practice, but as a setting aside one thing so that our time and attention can focus on prayer, God's word, and service.

All that being said, whatever spiritual practices you decide to pick up (or lay down) during this season, we will have more opportunity to be together to worship God during Lent. We will gather on Sundays, AND on Wednesday evenings to hear God's word, pray, sing, and learn together.

After Ash Wednesday (2/14), the rest of the Wednesdays through February and March, we will gather around a simple supper beginning around 5:30 (come when you can!) At 6:15 we'll turn our attention around the supper table to a simple Lenten prayer service. At 6:45, we'll disperse to book study, or worship team rehearsal, or a trip home. (See other articles in this newsletter for details about Wednesday Lenten worship and the book study.)

I pray that you will be with us for these times of worship, prayer, learning, and fellowship this season. And I encourage you to invite others who are hungry in body and spirit to **come and see** who Christ is and who we are in Christ.

Sr. Becky

P.s One more thing about Lenten Wednesdays: I really hope some of us choose to come to the Wednesday book study along with the confirmation students. Learning across generations is SO POWERFUL and enriching to our faith. I hope you'll take advantage of the opportunity.

### GET TO KNOW YOU INFORMATION

Sister Becky would like to get to know you. If you have not filled out a card at church, please call the office or email [pastor@halfwaycreek.org](mailto:pastor@halfwaycreek.org) with below

information.

**Name: Preferred contact (phone or email)**

**Time: Morning, Afternoon, Evening**

**Meet at: church, home or café/restaurant**



### YOUTH NEWS

There will be a youth outing to Sugar Creek Bible Camp on **Sunday, February 25th from 1-5 p.m.** We will be leaving Halfway Creek Church immediately after the 2nd service and returning roughly around 6 p.m. There will be an afternoon of snow tubing, broom ball, snow shoeing, wagon rides, and more! Students can even bring cross country skis and/or ice skates. Warm drinks, a mid-afternoon lunch, and a toasty fire will also be provided to students. **Please let me know if you and/or your student would be interested in this event by January 28th so that I can register our group and organize transportation.**

## LENTEN BOOK STUDY

Have you ever wondered, “What’s up with the cross? What’s the big deal with that? Why did Jesus have to die?”

If you have, you’re not alone! While the cross is at the center of the Christian faith, not very many of us understand how or why. How does a loving God square with the violence of the cross? Is it about sin? About love? About forgiveness? Passion and sacrifice? What’s this business about “taking up your cross?”

These are all good, important questions that we are sometimes afraid to ask. Sometimes Christians shy away from the central questions because they seem too complicated or come with two thousand years of arguments behind them.

David Lose’s book “Making Sense of the Cross” is written as a conversation between two friends; one asking and the other trying to answer serious questions about the cross and it’s meaning for our lives in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The five sessions will talk us through the different ways Christians have explained the cross over the centuries.

One word of caution: if you’re looking for the one and only way of understanding the cross, you will be disappointed. However, with the help of the Holy Spirit I believe this conversation will deepen your faith as we read and explore together the heart of our Christian faith that is revealed in the cross and resurrection of Jesus.

Each session will be offered on Sunday during the education hour and repeated the following Wednesday evening after worship. Signup on the bulletin board or by calling the office. Books are \$13 each and will be ordered on Feb 5. The book is also available on Kindle.



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- February 4                    9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
                                      9:15 a.m. Chime Rehearsal  
                                      10:30 a.m. Worship  
                                      Annual Meeting following—Childcare available - Pot Luck Following
- February 11                  8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Healing Prayer Service  
                                      9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
                                      11:30 a.m. Chime Rehearsal  
                                      11:40 a.m. Cemetery Association Annual Meeting
- February 14                  6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service
- February 18                  8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship  
                                      9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
                                      9:15 a.m. Book Study-*Making Sense of the Cross*
- February 21                  5:30 p.m. Lenten Dinner & 6:15 p.m. Worship  
                                      6:45 p.m. Book Study-*Making Sense of the Cross*
- February 25                  8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship  
                                      9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
                                      9:15 a.m. Book Study-*Making Sense of the Cross*
- February 28                  5:30 p.m. Lenten Dinner & 6:15 p.m. Worship  
                                      6:45 p.m. Book Study-*Making Sense*

**Sunday School will be singing at the 10:30 a.m.  
service on February 4th !!**



# February 2018

February 2018							March 2018						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28				25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Jan 28</p> <p>4</p> <p>9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Annual Meeting - Child Care Available 12:30pm Pot Luck @ Church (last name begins with A-I) dessert. L-R main dish.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>5</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6</p> <p>8:30am Quilting 9:00am Staff Meeting</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7</p> <p>6:00pm Confirmation Class</p>	<p>Feb 1</p> <p>8</p> <p>6:30pm Vision Board Orientation (For outgoing &amp; incoming members)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10</p> <p>10:00am Blanketear Project for Linus (Woosee Lodge in La Crosse)</p>
<p>11</p> <p>8:00am Worship Service - Healing Prayer 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service - Healing Prayer 11:30am Chinese Choir 11:40am HCLC Cemetery</p>	<p>12</p> <p>19</p> <p>Currents Deadline President's Day 5:30pm The Grieving Process - @ Mayo Health (Lang Conference Room, 800 West Ave., La Crosse)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:30am Quilting 9:00am Staff Meeting</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Valentine's Day 6:00pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Vision Board</p>	<p>16</p> <p>23</p>	<p>17</p> <p>24</p>
<p>18</p> <p>8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Book Study 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Chinese Choir 5:00pm Living Hope Supper</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:30am Quilting 9:00am Staff Meeting</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5:30pm Lenten Dinner &amp; Worship 6:00pm Confirmation Class 6:45pm Worship Team Rehearsal 6:45pm Book Study</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>25</p> <p>8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Book Study 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Youth Outing @ Sugar Creek Bible Camp 11:30am Chinese Choir</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:30am Quilting 9:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Holmen's Hope monthly dinner at American Legion 6:30pm Theology Uncorked - Human Brokenness &amp; the</p>	<p>28</p> <p>5:30pm Lenten Dinner &amp; Worship 6:00pm Confirmation Class 6:45pm Worship Team Rehearsal 6:45pm Book Study</p>	<p>Mar 1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>

# INSTALLATION OF SR. BECKY SWANSON

Bishop Arends was here to officiate at the installation of Sister Becky at both worship services on January 14, 2018. We are so excited to have her at Halfway Creek. Fellowship and cake followed. We are so happy that so many of you came to share in this special day in the life of the congregation, in spite of the cold weather.



*I am your servant; give me understanding,  
so that I may know your decrees.*

*Psalms 119:125*









**SERVING OTHERS IN OUR CONGREGATION**

		ACOLYTE	SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	OFFERING COUNTERS	LECTOR	COMMUNION ASSIST.	USHERS
<b>FEB 4</b>	1030	Mihm Family	Morgan Jostad	Carrie Payne Nicole Stumlin	Rhonda Britton Sonja Nelson	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Owen Bringe	Mihm Family
<b>FEB 11</b>	800	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Stan Schwier	Karla Johnson Diane Jostad	Bette Pedretti Susan Jostad	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	1030	Hendrickson Family	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>			<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Owen Bringe	Hendrickson Family
<b>FEB 18</b>	800	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Archie Achterkirch	Diane Jostad Nancy Holley	Jodi Eide Patti Happel	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	1030	Thiele Family	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>			<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Owen Bringe	Thiele Family
<b>FEB 25</b>	800	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Dave Bringe	Barb Hale Bette Pedretti	Joe Noth	Lee Anderson	Lee Anderson	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	1030	Cook Family	David Chase			<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Cook Family

**Lots of Opportunity – Volunteer for a Service**

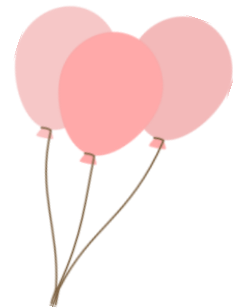
To make Sunday Services a success, your time is needed. Use Sign-up Genius or call the office 608-526-3701. <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0444a9aa22a3fc1-worship4> or <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0444a9aa22a3fc1-acolyteusher1>

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

<b>2</b> LeRoy Holley	<b>12</b> Donald Graham	<b>20</b> Heidi Rosenow	<b>27</b> Bambi Daily
<b>6</b> William Dent	<b>13</b> David Bringe	<b>21</b> Maison Payne	<b>28</b> James Ronnie
<b>7</b> Lee Anderson	Erin Bringe	Megan Page	<b>29</b> Douglas Dammen
<b>8</b> Judy Casberg	Cassie Noel	<b>22</b> Ellie Adam	
Steven Johnson	Carter Thiele	Mary Hammond	
<b>10</b> Matthew Tolvstad	<b>14</b> Susan Jostad	<b>24</b> Tara Heiser	
	Theodore Latham	William Miller	
<b>11</b> Jodi Lee	<b>15</b> Savannah Horstman	Noah Oines	
Lee Lohrentz	Jesse Plomedahl	Jon Olsen	
Sonja Nelson	<b>19</b> Vivianna Kolbo	<b>25</b> Orin Nyseth	
Matthew Page			



**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**



## **VISION BOARD MEETING MINUTES—DECEMBER 14, 2017**

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

President Joe Noth called the meeting to order at 6:50. We shared stories of Christmas past.

Joe and Bob and Joanne will be leaving the board in February. The constitution states the board is to consist of seven to nine members. We will have the second week of nominations during the worship services this Sunday.

Bob orally presented the financials. Year to date expenses exceeded income by \$8,423.33. Contributions and offerings to date are \$128,927.34. Jen motioned to approve the financial report as presented. John seconded. Motion approved.

Mr. Morrison will finish his review of the financials in January 2018.

John made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 16, 2017, meeting. Jen seconded. Motion approved.

Sister Becky Swanson will be starting to move into the parsonage on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. Her installation service will be January 14, 2018.

The annual meeting will be February 4, 2018. The teams will be asked to submit their reports to Rose by January 15<sup>th</sup>. The board will be approving the budget to present to the congregation at our next meeting.

Jen made a motion to adjourn and John seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Nichols

## **CONGREGATIONAL NEWS**

A gentle reminder to contact the church office if you have a prayer concern, an announcement to share with the congregation or a need for pastoral support. If there is no one in the office, please contact Sister Becky Swanson directly at one of the following numbers: **Cell: 612-327-5087; Church: 608-399-3339**

**CHURCH CALENDAR**

This is a reminder that you need to let Rose know when you have an event, meeting or room reservation at church. Please email me at [assistant@halfwaycreek.org](mailto:assistant@halfwaycreek.org) with date, time and event name. It will be put on the church calendar.

**NEW MEMBER SUNDAY IN FEBRUARY**

We are planning a new member Sunday welcoming in February . If you have an interest in learning more about this, please contact Sister Becky at 608-399-3339 or 612-327-5087.

**HEALING SERVICES—FEBRUARY 11TH**

We will have a healing service at the 8:00 am and 10:30 am worship service on Sunday, February 11. There will be a time during communion for individual prayers of healing with Sr. Becky.

**EASTER FLOWER ORDER DEADLINE**

If you would like to order flowers for Easter, April 1st, please check the bulletin for an order form or call the office at 608-526-3701. All orders must be received by Thursday, March 1.



**HOLMEN CARES**  
[holmencares@gmail.com](mailto:holmencares@gmail.com)  
[facebook.com/holmencares](https://www.facebook.com/holmencares)



In addition, HCLC will continue to pray in action by collecting gift cards/scrip for families affected. You may either purchase gift cards and bring them to church or purchase them through the Youth Scrip sales and

designate them for the Fire. Cards to "general merchandise" stores (such as Target, Kohls, etc.) are especially requested.



**In Our Prayers:** Roy Ackerman, Talon Lichtie, Aiden Noth, Kathy Wier, Finn Swenson, Phoebe Kitzke, Sophia Zematis, Ayla Humphrey, Ted Latham, Gayle Kuespert, Donna Dummer, Richard Granum, Andrea Baxter, Jim Ainslie, Marge Lee

Halfway Creek Lutheran Church  
W6016 County Road W  
Holmen, WI 54636

## **HALFWAY CREEK**

### **LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Sunday Worship 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.

Sister Becky Swanson—Interim Pastor

[www.halfwaycreek.org](http://www.halfwaycreek.org)

### **OFFICE HOURS**

The office will be open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays 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 her at [assistant@halfwaycreek.org](mailto:assistant@halfwaycreek.org).

### **PASTORAL CARE**

If the need arises for Pastoral Care, please contact Sister Becky Swanson at one of the following numbers:

**Cell:** 612-327-5087

**Church:** 608-399-3339

