



WWW.HALFWAYCREEK.ORG

# Halfway Creek

LUTHERAN CHURCH

## CURRENTS

JANUARY 2018

**WELCOME** Sister Becky Swanson, our interim pastor, and Gary Anderson to Halfway Creek Lutheran Church. We are so excited to have you as part of our family. As you transition from Ohio to Wisconsin, the colors green and gold (Packers) and red (Badgers) will hopefully become the colors of choice.

What a wonderful way to start the New Year! Looking forward to getting to know you.

### **THANK YOU HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CONGREGATION**

In 2017 this congregation was very generous with their time, talent and resources. We look forward to 2018 and what God has in store for all of us.

### **ANNUAL REPORTS**

The annual reports will be **emailed** out this month. They will also be available for pick up at church at the end of January. Please contact the office at 526-3701 if you would prefer a copy to be mailed to you. Please read through it, 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 2017 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](mailto:assistant@halfwaycreek.org) to obtain a copy of this valuable tax tool.



## MESSAGE FROM SISTER BECKY

Dear People of God at Halfway Creek Lutheran Church,

I don't know about you, but 2018 is set to be one of the most dramatic New Years I've had in a long time! You and I will begin getting to know each other and listening for the work God is doing in and around Halfway Creek Lutheran Church and how we might join in.

As we begin together, I promise to do my best to follow these "10 Rules for Respect" and I invite you to do the same. We will all fail, but through gentle challenge and loving encouragement these can become a foundation for healthy communication for us all.

I can't wait to see what God has in store for us!

Looking forward,

Sr. Becky

1. If you have a problem with me, come to me (privately).
2. If I have a problem with you, I will come to you (privately).
3. If someone has a problem with me and comes to you, send them to me. (I'll do the same for you)
4. If someone consistently will not come to me, say, "Let's go to Sr. Becky together. I am sure she will see us about this." (I will do the same for you.)
5. Be careful how you interpret me-I'd rather do that. On matters that are unclear, do not feel pressured to interpret my feelings or thoughts. It is easy to misinterpret intentions.
6. I will be careful how I interpret you.
7. If it's confidential, don't tell. If you or anyone comes to me in confidence, I won't tell unless a) the person is going to harm himself/herself, b) the person is going to physically harm someone else, c) a child has been physically or sexually abused. I expect the same from you.
8. I do not read unsigned letters or notes.

*(Continued on page 3)*

9. I do not manipulate; I will not be manipulated; do not let others manipulate you. Do not let others manipulate me through you. I will not preach “at you.” I will leave conviction to the Holy Spirit (she does it better anyway!)

10. When in doubt, just say it. The only dumb questions are those that don’t get asked. Our relationships with one another, at the end of the day, are the most important things so if you have a concern, pray, and then (if led) speak up. If I can answer it without misrepresenting something, someone, or breaking a confidence, I will.

Come join us for the installation of Sister Becky Swanson on January 14th at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. service by Bishop Arends.



**WELCOME** to Marc & Shannon Jandt along with their children, Joy & Noel that joined our church in December.

### *In Our Prayers*

Roy Ackerman, Talon Lichtie, Aiden Noth, Katie Wier, Finn Swenson, Penny Pomeroy, Phoebe Kitzke, Sophia Zematis, Ayla Humphrey, Ted Latham, Donna Dummer, Jim Ainslie, Gayle Kuespert, Richard Granum and the Family of Wally Bucholtz.

## SEXTONS NEEDED

We are in need of Sexton volunteers to help at 10:30 a.m. church service for the 2nd and 3rd Sunday of the month. Please contact the Church Office at 526-3701 if you are willing to volunteer.

## BIBLE STUDY



Bible Study to resume on Thursday, January 18 at 9:30 am at church. Chapter 7 & 8 is where we will start.

## YOUTH GROUP HOMEMADE PIZZA SALE

Attention all pizza lovers! Our youth group is busy preparing for this summer's youth faith exploration trip to Youth Conference in Texas. We are selling homemade pizzas from now until January 21st, just in time for the Super Bowl! If you would like to place in an order, please contact one of our youth members, email Cassie Tolvstad at [ctremain14@gmail.com](mailto:ctremain14@gmail.com) or drop the form off at the church office. 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.



## ANNUAL MEETING—FEBRUARY 4

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 4.

**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!



## 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. Every Wednesday, from 9:00 am—12:00 pm.

**Below changes will be discussed at the February, 2018 Annual Meeting.**

### CHANGES IN THE HCLC CONSTITUTION

A **constitution** is a set of fundamental principles or established precedents according to which an organization is governed. The original constitution for HCLC was adapted in December 2004. It includes both congregational and synod specific principles. Every few years the ELCA updates the “model” constitution. Congregations across the country then make changes to their constitution in accordance with the adapted recommendations on the ELCA. **THESE AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL CONSTITUTION FOR CONGREGATIONS WERE APPROVED BY THE 2016 ELCA CHURCH WIDE ASSEMBLY.**

The changes often clarify language and procedures or incorporate changes in the faith culture. The following is a summary of the changes that the Vision Board will ask the congregation to vote on at the 2018 annual meeting. \*C16.04. in our current constitution indicates that such amendments may be approved by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting at any legally called meeting of the congregation. The entire constitution with changes is attached.

**Additions are underlined. Deletions are ~~struck through~~ in the text.**

1. In coordination with the following amendments, the 2016 Church-wide Assembly authorized the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to:
  - strike the words “ordained minister/s” and replace with the words “minister/s of Word and Sacrament”;
  - strike the word “clergy” and replace with the words “minister/s of Word and Sacrament”;
  - strike the words “pastor/s” and replace with the words “minister/s of Word and Sacrament” where appropriate;
  - strike the words “associate in ministry, diaconal minister and deaconess” and replace with the words “minister/s of Word and Service”; and
  - make editorial corrections that identify the rosters of this church and implement the creation of the ministers of Word and Service roster.
2. \*c8.02. ADDED: Seasonal members are voting members of other ELCA congregations who wish to retain such membership but desire to participate in the life and mission of this congregation, including exercising limited voting rights in this congregation.

\*C9.21. To \*C9.31 ADDED:

\*C9.21 to \*C9.24– focus on Call Process for a Deacon

\*C9.25 to \*C9.31 – focus on Termination of a Deacon

The section on deacons is in the model constitution because we have rostered deacons in the ELCA. They are people who have completed the required education to be ministers of word and **service**, similar to but not the same as ministers of word and **sacrament** (pastors). The Bishop of the local synod grants permission for them to deliver the sacraments within a congregation.

<http://www.halfwaycreek.org/ministry/proposed-constitution/>

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL THANK YOU**

On December 10th, we held our annual Christmas Program. It was a great program! It was held at Prairie View Elementary to provide room for all to see. 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 NEWS**

Sunday School will resume on **January 7th** 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.

## **SANTA'S CHRISTMAS STORE**

Thank you to all those who donated items to our Santa's Workshop! Our Sunday's School kids were able to purchase multiple gifts for their family members and the youth students were busy elves wrapping, taping, and making sure that their gifts looked just right! Our profits from this event were \$130. Items that were left were donated to Good Steward.

## **YOUTH SILENT AUCTION**

A special thank you to all who donated and purchased items in support of our Youth Group at the Silent Auction! The auction went from December 3rd until December 17th. We were able to raise a total of \$502 from the sale of all of the donated items.

## **COOKIE WALK THANK YOU**

What a treat to our Sunday service on December 17th! Thank you to all who donated yummy goodies and to those that purchased them as well!. We profited a total of \$243.96.

## **CARING TREE MINISTRY**

The Service Ministry Program Team at Holmen Lutheran Church was TRULY blessed by your partnership with us again this year. With your help, we distributed over 410 Christmas gifts to over 205 children and 89 Christmas Food/Care Packages to families in the Holmen community on December 16<sup>th</sup>. We are also grateful to the Literacy Committee for providing a book for each child. We wouldn't be able to do this project without your support. THANK YOU!

# January 2018

January 2018

February 2018

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	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
Dec 31	Jan 1, 18 New Year's Day	2	3 9:00am Pastor's Text Study 6:00pm NO. Confirmation	4	5	6
7 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School - Prayers, Pls, Pancakes & Pals 10:30am Worship Service	8	9	10 9:00am Pastor's Text Study 6:00pm CONFIRMATION CLASS RESUMES	11 6:00pm Music & Liturgy Team Meeting 7:30pm Theology on Tap (Two Beagles's Brew Pub)	12	13
14 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	15 Currents Deadline Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	16	17 9:00am Pastor's Text Study 6:00pm Confirmation Class	18 9:30am Bible Study Chapter 7 & 8 6:30pm Vision Board	19	20
21 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 5:00pm Living Hope Supper in Ettrick	22	23 6:30pm Theology Uncorked (Two Beagles Brew Pub)	24 9:00am Pastor's Text Study 6:00pm Confirmation Class	25	26	27
28 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	29	30 5:00pm Holmen's Hope monthly dinner at American Legion	31 9:00am Pastor's Text Study 6:00pm Confirmation Class	Feb 1	2	3

## WORSHIP LEADERS

		ACOLYTE	SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	OFFERING COUNTERS	LECTOR	COMMUNION ASSIST.	USHERS
<b>JAN 7</b>	800	Volunteer needed	Mike Martin	Carrie Payne Nicole Stumlin	Rhonda Britton Sonja Nelson	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
	1030	Strangstalien Family	Morgan Jostad			John Daily	Jen Strangstalien	Strangstalien Family
<b>JAN 14</b>	800	Cornelius Family	Stan Schwier	Karla Johnson Diane Jostad	Bette Pedretti Susan Jostad	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Cornelius Family
	1030	Noah Nelson	Volunteer Needed			Jen Strangstalien	Volunteer Needed	Noah Nelson
<b>JAN 21</b>	800	Volunteer Needed	Archie Achterkirch	Diane Jostad Nancy Holley	Patti Happel Jodi Eide	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
	1030	Volunteer needed	Volunteer Needed			Jean Latham	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed
<b>JAN 28</b>	800	Volunteer Needed	David Bringe	Barb Hale Bette Pedretti	Joe Noth	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
	1030	Maddy & Zach Arendt	David Chase			Mandi Horstman	Trinity Horstman	Maddy & Zach Arendt

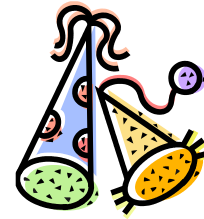
**Thank you for your service in our faith community.**

If you are unable to volunteer for a time in which you are listed, please find somebody to take your place.

Thank you!

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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



## FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF NOVEMBER, 2017

General Fund Balance	\$ 2,997.25
Thrivent Account Balance	\$32,100.47

## Be a *Blanketeer* for Project Linus on "Make a Blanket" Saturday

February 17, 2018 10 a.m. — 2 p.m.

The Moose Lodge,  
1932 Ward Avenue La Crosse



### Before Make a Blanket Saturday, you can...

*Work on creating Tied Fleece Blankets*

*Work on Knitting or Crocheting*

*Work on creating a child's quilt*

*Bring designs for creating a custom  
message to blanket recipients*

***Receive Door Prize entry for each  
blanket donated.***

### Create Project Linus Blankets at Fun Participation Stations. . .

*Sewing*

*Cutting*

*Tying*

*Personalized Message Squares*

*Project Linus Labels*

*Knitting & Crocheting*

***Volunteers and Help Available,  
All Levels of Expertise Welcomed***

*In the event of Inclement Weather, Event Date is March 3, 2018*

## Food and Refreshments Provided

**Organized by Good Shepherd Women – WELCA  
to benefit *Project Linus***

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of La Crosse**



**Event Questions.... Sara (608) 769-2449**

**Project Linus Questions..... Kay (608) 406-0349**



## **VISION BOARD NOVEMBER 16, 2017 MINUTES**

Members present include Joe Noth, Bob Bandoli, Jen Strangstalien, John Daily, Joanne Nichols. Rich Berger were excused. Guests present include Gaye Johnson, Carolyn Bjerke, and Lynn Wegner.

President Joe Noth called the meeting to order at 6:40. Lynn Wegner led devotions. The focus was on using discernment when choosing to go forward with an activity/program. The quality of an activity is more important than the quantity of activities a church may offer.

Gaye Johnson presented a plan for exterior Christmas lights and decorations on the front canopy and pillars. The board thanks Gaye for her donation and supports her plan.

Gaye also presented the visions the congregation turned in during October celebrating the reformation.

Carolyn Bjerke spoke about conflict between parishioners and pastors.

Lynn, Rose W., Archie A., Rich P. and John D. are working on updating the building use policy.

Bob B. said the general fund balance as of today is \$2,997.25. There is \$32,100.47 in the Thrivent account. Jodi is working on reconciling the bank accounts up to date. She is also reviewing each transaction for the year. Jim Morrison will be coming in the first week of December to complete his review. John moved to approve the financials as verbally presented. Jen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The board will be working on the budget on Saturday, December 2 and December 9 at 9:00 am.

Bob made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 21, 2017 meeting. Jen seconded. Motion passed.

Vision board nominations will be accepted at the worship services December 3, 17, and 31.

Joanne N. presented the Consecration Sunday statistical report. A copied is attached.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, December 14 at 6:30.

Bob B. made a motion to go into closed session. John D. seconded the motion. Motion passed.

John D. made a motion to offer the interim position to Sister Becky Swanson with the conditions discussed in the closed session. Jen S. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

John D. made a motion to adjourn and Bob B seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted.

Joanne Nichols

## **NOMINATION 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.

The Vision Board will be in contact with the nominees during the month of January. We look forward to God's direction. Annual meeting will be held, Sunday, February 4, 2018.

## **Holmen's Hope Backpack Program Needs**

Below are items needed to fill backpacks for the children. Donations can be brought to [Coulee Life Church](#) during the week. If the office is locked they can be left by the office door. Or you may bring them into the church office during office hours.

FRUIT CUPS	APPLESAUCE CUPS
PUDDING CUPS	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)	
INSTANT OATMEAL PACKETS	HOT COCOA PACKETS
MICROWAVE POPCORN	MICROWAVABLE CUP OF NOODLES
FRUIT SNACKS	BREAKFAST BARS
CHICKEN/TUNA SALAD WITH CRACKERS	PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS

**HALFWAY CREEK  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

W6016 County Road W

Holmen, WI 54636

Phone 608-526-3701

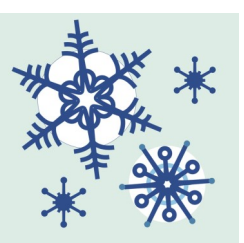
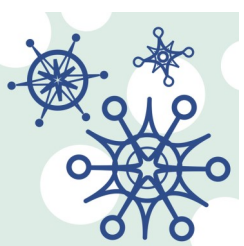
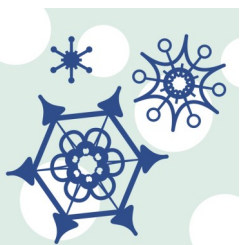
Sunday Worship at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m..

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

## Return Service Requested

### 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).



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