

CURRENTS

APRIL 2018

APRIL 1ST EASTER SUNDAY

7:00 A.M. — Sunrise Service in Whispering Pines *Weather Permitting*

9:00 A.M. — Festival Worship Service in the Sanctuary

10:30 A.M. — Festival Worship Service in the Sanctuary

Sunday Schedule

April 8 8:00 & 10:30 am

9:15 am Sunday School & New Member Class

April 15 8:00 & 10:30 am

9:15 am Sunday School & New Member Class

April 22 8:00 am—New Members & Blessing of Farmers and Gardeners

10:30 am—New Members, Sunday School Singing

9:15 am Sunday School & New Member Reception

April 29 8:00 am Confirmation Sunday

9:15 am Sunday School

10:30 am Confirmation Sunday



Graduating Class of 2018

If your child will be graduating this year, please email their name to assistant@halfwaycreek.org.

FROM SR. BECKY

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

This dialog begins our Easter celebration – and continues throughout the fifty-day season of Easter.

The Easter season is about seeing: Christ risen, Christ present among us in the breaking of the bread, Christ's Spirit poured out on the church.

In Lent, we turned inward, acknowledging the brokenness of the world and our own participation in systems that oppress and destroy God's good creation. We studied and wondered together about how Jesus' dying on the cross could bring us back into relationship – into atone-ment – with God who loves us and keeps promising to be our God.

At Easter, every veil that hides the cosmic reality that Christ is alive, life is stronger than death, and love wins is lifted and discarded with Christ's burial shroud, never to be needed again. Like the women running to the tomb we look into the darkness of death and find – not despair, but reason to hope!

During these next seven weeks—until the festival of Pentecost (May 20), we turn outward to see Christ in the world and in each other. I invite you to join me in reading the entire book of Acts over the next seven weeks to see how the Holy Spirit formed and sustained the earliest Christian communities. Dwelling in that story together, can we see how the Holy Spirit might be re-forming and sustaining us at Halfway Creek Lutheran Church? The readings are listed on the back of the calendar.

As we move toward spring and the end of our program year, the Vision Board is wondering together how God is calling us to share Christ with each other and with the wider community in this time and place.

Your elected leaders on the Vision Board are seeking to set a culture of shared leadership of our life together. An atmosphere where hospitality is not the responsibility of a just few, but of all of us, so that we are ready to warmly welcome and include visitors and people seeking a faith home when they arrive. A place where we make it easy to be known and called by name; to share gifts as well as the highs and lows of life, no matter what your age or how long you have been here. A place where trust in God and in each other can grow. A place where we discern together how to move forward.

Discernment is hard, slow work. The Spirit does not always speak clearly, nor on our schedule. This will irritate some and reassure others. As we move deeper into this season of discernment together, let us pray God fills us with patience and compassion for ourselves and each other.

In Christ's service with you,

Sr. Becky



WHAT'S COMING TO HALFWAY CREEK

"I have called you by name, you are mine" Isaiah 43:1

God knows our names, but sometimes we don't know each others' names.

The Vision Board, in striving to make HCLC as welcoming and friendly a place as we value it to be, has asked that we provide name tags so that we can call each other by name!

Reusable name tags will be printed and provided for all HCLC members age 5 and above. Single use sticky name tags will be provided for younger members and visitors.

Look for our new name tags around May 13!

CONFIRMATION CLASS NEWS

April 4 - Class 6:00-7:30 pm (Review/Debrief Lenten Book Study)

April 11 - Class 6:00-7:30 pm (Spiritual Gifts; Faith Statement intro for 8th graders)

April 13 – 14 – Confirmation Retreat – Overnight at Sugar Creek Bible Camp

April 18 - Class 6:00-7:30 pm (Review the Rite of Confirmation)

April 25 - Class 6:00-7:30 pm (8th graders share their faith statements with class)

April 29 - CONFIRMATION SUNDAY - 8th graders attend both 8:00 & 10:30 services

May 2 - Family Potluck/Picnic - 6:00pm

WHAT IS BEFRIENDER MINISTRY?

Befrienders is a volunteer group which began in 2002. On a monthly basis we bring Communion and Fellowship to our homebound/nursing home members. We enjoy sharing news of the congregation and highlights of the season along with listening to the concerns and thoughts of the members we serve. This ministry lets them know that even though they cannot be with us every Sunday, they remain an important part of our mission statement of "Reaching Out to Share Christ with All."

Another part of the Befriender ministry is to bring food to families in need, those who have suffered loss, been hospitalized or just need to be reminded that we care. If you know of someone who you think would like a visit from the Befrienders, please let Sister Becky know and she will make the arrangements. If you are interested in serving on this ministry, please contact Sonja Nelson 608-526-2603.

Members: Barb Hale, Ruth Jostad, Susan Jostad, Marge Lee, Sonja Nelson, Amy Noel, Diane Jostad, Bette Pedretti, Ruth Scholze and Thelma Severson

ROGATION SUNDAY- APRIL 22

Stewardship of creation is an ongoing ministry in the church. The creation that God declared good is entrusted to the care of humankind. Exercising that care is one dimension of daily Christian discipleship. Rogation Days are a way for the church to honor God for the gift of creation and to pray for the land, the gift of labor, and the needs of all people. It will be on Sunday, April 22nd, which is also Earth Day. Both services that day will include special blessings of farmers and gardeners.

April 2018				Su Mo Tu We Th 15 18 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19	Fr Sa Su Mo 13 14 6 7 20 21 18 14 27 28 20 21	May 2018 Tu. We. Th. Fr. Sa. 1 2 3 4 5 8 10 10 11 15 16 17 11 11 22 23 24 25 28 29 30 31
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Apr 1 7:00am Sunrise Outdoor Easter Worship Halfway Creek (Whispering Pines - weather permitting) 8:5:00am Easter Worship	2. Sigopn Coping Through Anniversaries & the Holidays -@ Mayo Health (Lang Conference Room, 800 West Ave., La Crosse)	3 9.00am.Staff Meeting	4 6:00pm.Confirmation Class	۲	6 6:30pm Created to Create	7 8.00am.Created to.Create
8 8:00am Worship Service 8 9:15am New Member Class 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	ത	10 8.00am Staff Meeting	11 6:00pm.Confirmation.Glass	12 6:30pm.Executive.Team	5:00pm Sugar Creek Overnight for Confirmation Students	14 12:00am Sugar Creek Covernight for Confirmation Students
8.00am Worship Service 9.915am New Member Class 19.15am Sunday School 10.30am Worship Service 5.00pm Living Hope Supper in Ettick	16 Currents Deadline S:30pm Differences Between Grieving and Depression -@ Mayo Health (Lang Conference Room, 800 West Ave., La Crosse)	9.00am.Staff Meeting	18 6.00pm.Confirmation.Class	19 19:30am Bible Study 6:30am Vision Board	20	8:30am La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA Spring Convention (Living Hope Lutheran Ettrick)
2.2 8:00am Worship Service - New Members 10:30am Worship Service - 10:30am Worship Service - New Members 11:30am Big Boar Youth Fund Raiser @ Half Creek	7.00pm North Conference Preassembly Caucus	24 S:00am.Staff.Meeting S:00pm Holmen's Hope monthly dinner at American Legion 6:30pm Theology Uncorked- Joy in our Faith: Where do you find Joy in your with	25 6:00pm Confirmation Class- Fracticing Faith Statement	26 8:30am Spring Theological Conference (Sugar Creek Bible Camp)	27	28
29 8.300am Worship Service 8.9.15am Sunday School 10.30am Worship Service - Confirmation Sunday	3.0 5:30pm Grief and Wellness —@ Mayo Health (Lang Conference Room, 800 West Ave., La Crosse)	May 1	2	£	4	ις.
HCLC Assistant			Ţ			3/23/2018 10:04 AM

Easter Season Bible Study - The Book of Acts Daily Reading

Monday	April 2	Acts 1:1-11
Tuesday	April 3	Acts 1:12-26
Wednesday	April 4	Acts 2:1-21
Thursday	April 5	Acts 2:22-36
Friday	April 6	Acts 2:36-47
Saturday	April 7	Acts 3:1-10
Sunday	Worship	
Monday	April 9	Acts 3:11-26
Tuesday	April 10	Acts 4:1-22
Wednesday	April 11	Acts 4:23-37
Thursday	April 12	Acts 5:1-16
Friday	April 13	Acts 5:17-42
Saturday	April 14	Acts 6:1-15
Sunday	Worship	
Monday	April 16	Acts 7:1-30
Tuesday	April 17	Acts 7:31-8:1
Wednesday	April 18	Acts 8:2-25
Thursday	April 19	Acts 8:26-40
Friday	April 20	Acts 9:1-19
Saturday	April 21	Acts 9:20-43
Sunday	Worship	
Monday	April 23	Acts 10:1-33
Tuesday	April 24	Acts 10:34-48
Wednesday	April 25	Acts 11:1-30
Thursday	April 26	Acts 12:1-25
Friday	April 27	Acts 13:1-12
Saturday	April 28	Acts 13:13-52
Sunday	Worship	Acts 14:1-28
Monday	April 30	Acts 15:1-21
Tuesday	May 1	Acts 15:22-41
Wednesday	May 2	Acts 16:1-15
Thursday	May 3	Acts 16:16-40
Friday	May 4	Acts 17:1-34
Saturday	May 5	Acts 18:1-28
Sunday	Worship	
Monday	May 7	Acts 19:1-20
Tuesday	May 8	Acts 19:21-41
Wednesday	May 9	Acts 20:1-38
Thursday	May 10	Acts 21:1-40
Friday	May 11	Acts 22:1-30
Saturday	May 12	Acts 23:1-35
Sunday	Worship	
Monday	May 14	Acts 24:1-27
Tuesday	May 15	Acts 25:1-27
Wednesday	May 16	Acts 26:1-32
Thursday	May 17	Acts 27:1-27
Friday	May 18	Acts 27:28-44
Saturday	May 19	Acts 28:1-31
Sunday	Worship	
	PENTECOST	
		100

HCLC Youth Update

Easter Breakfast:

Join us for Easter breakfast after each of the three services for Easter on Sunday, April 1st! We will be serving egg bakes, french toast bakes, fruit, pastries, coffee, juice, and milk. We look forward to celebrating Christ's resurrection and this beautiful day with you!

Big Boar Barbecue Fundraiser:

The youth will be hosting Big Boar Barbecue on Sunday, April 22nd from 11:30-2:30 in the Heritage Hall. Tickets are \$10.00 and include a pulled pork sandwich, homemade barbecue sauce, baked beans, and coleslaw. Beverages and desserts will also be available for purchase. See any youth student to purchase tickets or stop at the scrip table. Join us after late service for a warm meal and thank you for your support as we prepare for our trip to Houston, TX.

Updates on Youth Gathering:

On behalf of the youth group, students and parents, I would like to extend the biggest thank you to our congregation members for their support and prayers thus far as this is one of our biggest and most expensive trips. However, this trip is unlike other trips. During the Youth Gathering, students will be gathered with over 30,000 brothers and sisters in Christ for a week where they will be participating in service work and fellowship, worship and bible study, as well as interactive learning. As someone who has not participated in a Youth Gathering, I am more than excited to share this experience with this group of amazing kids as well as our chaperones, Jon Strangstalien and Mandi Horstman.

Currently we are fundraising to pay the remaining balance of our flight tickets as they were more expensive than anticipated as well as our hotel stay for a week in Houston.

Ways that you can support the Youth Group:

- Prayer and conversation-Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we prepare for our journey and ask the
 youth what they are most looking forward to on the trip
- Join us on April 22nd for our Big Boar Barbecue fundraiser
- Stop by the Brat Barn at Festival Foods in Holmen on May 26th anytime from 10-5 a.m.
- There are donation envelopes hanging in the fellowship hall on the bulletin board if you would like to make a monetary donation
- Buying groceries? Filling your car with gas? Thinking of a graduation gift for a graduating senior? We have over
 50 vendors that you can purchase from through our scrip program. Stop by the scrip table after first service and before second service

Again, thank you all for your prayers, support through our fundraising efforts, and for helping us fulfill our mission to "Share Christ with All."

Cassie Tolystad

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID at English Lutheran

Youth Mental Health First Aid USA is an 8 hour public education program which teaches adults to recognize the unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in adolescents, builds understanding of the importance of early intervention, and teaches individuals how to help an adolescent in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge. Mental Health First Aid uses role-playing and group activities to demonstrate how to asses a mental health crisis; select interventions and provide initial help; and connect young people to professional, peer, social and self help care.

When: Thursday, May 10th from 8:30 am-4:00 pm

Where: English Lutheran Church, 1509 King St., La Crosse

Cost: Free, Space is limited, Pre-registration required diana@bettertogetherlaxco.org

FIRST COMMUNION

On March 29th the following celebrated First Communion at Halfway Creek Lutheran; Jason Bramwell, Nollan Gander, Anna Holley, Gracie Holley, Allison Oines, Ethan Oines, Maison Payne, Jerin Rink, Weston Schott. Congratulations and welcome!



COULEE REGION GOSPEL CHOIR CONCERT

John Daily, sings in the Coulee Region Gospel Choir invites us to hear their musical, "**Experiencing God**". A narrator and 85 voice choir, directed by Tim Jensen, represents thirty area churches. Join them for one of the concerts:

Sunday, April 8 @ 3:00 pm at Holmen Lutheran—Church & Morris St., Holmen Sunday, April 15 @ 3:00 pm at Olivet Lutheran—2100 Bainbridge, French Island Sunday, April 22 @ 3:00 pm Shepherd of the Hills—1215 Redwood, Onalaska

Are you interested in knowing more about Halfway Creek Lutheran Church and /or becoming a member. We will be hosting classes as:

Sunday, April 8 & 15 at 9:15 am

Sunday, April 22—Recognition of New Members

CREATED TO CREATE



Love to crochet but never seem to find the time? Are you still working on your child's baby scrapbook even though they are in high school? Do you just need time to organize your digital photos and upload them to a photo site? Do you like to paint but haven't pulled your paint supplies out of the closet in over a year. We are excited to begin a new opportunity for Bible study, fellowship, and a little Sabbath (i.e., time to work on your crafts, hobbies, and Pinterest projects)! For the months of April, May, and June, Halfway Creek will be hosting *Created to Create* on the first Friday evening & Saturday morning of the month.

Friday, April 6th from 6:30 to 9:30 pm Saturday, April 7th from 8 am to noon



We ask that participants bring a snack to share for Friday night and a potluck item for lunch on Saturday.

Sr. Becky will lead a Bible study on Friday @ 7:00 pm & Saturday @ 9:30 am that we can discuss while we work.

FREE event, open to anyone middle school age and up. **NO CHILDCARE PROVIDED.** WiFi is available.

DEADLINE: Reserve your spot by Tuesday, April 3, via the online signup or by contacting the office so that we can set up the space accordingly.

LA CROSSE AREA SYNOD W-ELCA SPRING CONVENTION

The theme this year is **THROUGH US, GOD DOES A NEW THING.** Come be a part of this convention on Saturday, April 21, 2018 at Living Hope Lutheran in Ettrick, WI. The dynamic keynote speakers will focus our attention on drug addiction and recovery.

Registration begins at 8:00 am and closes at 3:30 pm. To obtain form contact assistant@haflwaycreek.org or call 608-526-3701 . **After April 7**, registration may be made by telephone 608-526-2284 or monavanriper@gmail.com, payable at convention.

FEED MY SHEEP

JoAnne Nichols will representative Halfway Creek Lutheran at the April 7th workshop at the La Crosse Synod office. This workshop will focus on sharing ideas for raising money for World Hunger. Our goal is to raise \$500.00 at Halfway Creek.



PRAYER CHAIN

Halfway C prayers re tial and tl

Halfway Creek Prayer Chain is comprised of 15 women who offer up prayers requested by parishioners or friends. All prayers are confidential and the amount of information given is up to the individual making

the request. Options for prayer requests are:

Prayer Chain Sunday Bulletin Pastoral Prayer

Please call Nancy Holley, 608-526-3418 or Sister Becky 608-399-3339

If you are interested in serving this ministry, contact Nancy Holley at 608-526-3418

<u>In Our Prayers</u>: Roy Ackermann, Talon Lichtie, Aiden Noth, Katie Wier, Finn Swenson, Phoebe Kitzke, Sophia Zematis, Ayla Humphrey, Ted Latham, Donna Dummer, Gayle Kuespert, Andrea Baxter, Jenny Wegner, Sue Bjerke, Matt & Cassie Tolvstad

SERVING AND WORSHIP

		ACOLYTE	SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	OFFERING COUNTERS	LECTOR	COMMUNION ASSIST.	USHERS
A P R	7 0 0	Nicole Stumlin	Volunteer Needed	Carrie Payne Nicole Stumlin	Honda Britton Sonja Nelson	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Nicole Stumlin
1	8 0 0	Volunteer Needed	Mike Martin			Ruth Jostad	Thelma Severson Gary Anderson	Volunteer Needed
	1 0 3 0	Volunteer Needed	Morgan Jostad			John Daily	Owen Bringe Gary Anderson	Volunteer Needed
A P R	8 0 0	Cook Family	Stan Schwier	Karla Johnson Diane Jostad	Bette Pedretti Susan Jostad	Lee Anderson	Lee Anderson	Cook Family
8	1 0 3 0	Declan Mihm Family	Volunteer Needed			Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Declan Mihm Family
A P	8 0 0	Volunteer Needed	Archie Achterkirch	Diane Jostad Nancy Holley	Jodi Eide Patti Happel	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
1 5	1 0 3 0	Noth Family	Volunteer Needed			Joe Noth		Noth Family
A P R	8 0 0	Erin Bringe Family	Dave Bringe	Bab Hale Bette Pedretti	Joe Noth	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Erin Bringe Family
2	1 0 3 0	Volunteer Needed	Dave Chase			Volunteer Needed	Owen Bringe	Volunteer Needed

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-acolyteusher1. Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board near the coffee area.

		ACOLYTE	SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	OFFERING COUNTERS	LECTOR	COMMUNION ASSIST.	USHERS
A P R	8 0	Volunteer Needed	Archie Achterkirch	Diane Jostad	Mike Martin John Daily	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
2 9	1 0 3 0	Owen Bringe Family	Volunteer Needed			Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Owen Bringe Family

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1 Nicole Barbour 3 Noah Hanson	12 Cohen Lee Kennedy Stranglien 14	21 Kathleen Hagel Chantel Temp 22	
Gregory Temp	Alexa Lautenschlager	Gabriel Hansen	26
4	15	Allison Oines	Dawn Bandoli
Rachael Hauser	Kristi Johnson	Ethan Oines	27
Trinity Horstman	16	23	Rebecca Hauser
6	Matthew Betsinger	Savannah Britton	28
Rhonda Britton	Erica Daily	Philip Johnson	Ryan Olson
Doug Gordon	18	Joanne Mihm	Cartyr Stumlin
Zach Johnson	Andrea Baxter	Randy Tuquero	29
Cassie Tremain-Tolvstad	19	24	Audrey Bringe
	Jennifer Kruckow	Roy Ackerman	Lars Oines
	Wyatt Oines		



Halfway Creek Lutheran Church will be hosting the North Conference Preassembly Caucus on April 23, 2018 at 7:00 pm. This caucus is for the congregational representatives to prepare for the annual assembly meeting.

MINUTES FROM HCLC VISION BOARD

February 15, 2018 6:30pm | Meeting called to order by Sr. Becky

<u>In Attendance</u>: John Daily, Jodi Eide, Kathi Hagel, Mandi Horstman, Philip Johnson, Jen Strangstalien <u>Guests</u>: Jodi Anderson – bookkeeper; <u>Excused Absent</u>: Rich Berger, Marna Holley, Gaye Johnson

<u>Devotions</u>: A reading from I Corinthians and a discussion on Spiritual gifts.

<u>Approval of Agenda</u>: Added to the agenda-Bulletin Board-Mission Giving in the Budget. A motion was made by Mandi H to approve the Agenda with additions, Kathi H. gave the second.

<u>Approval of Minutes</u>: John D. motioned to approve the January Minutes and Jen S. gave the second.

Election of Officers: Discussion on the process.

President- Jen Strangstalien- Nominated by John D/ Second by Jodi E. Vice President- John Daily – Nominated by Kathi H/ Second by Jodi E. Secretary- Mandi Horstman- Nominated by Kathi H./ Second by Philip J. Treasurer- Jodi Edie- Nominated by Kathi H/ Second by Mandi H.

<u>Reports:</u> Interim Pastor Report: Direct Deposit for employees has been set up and February 16-28th will be paid out on March 15th, putting the paychecks on a delayed cycle. Discussion on John Daily and Jodi getting their names on the signature card at Park Bank.

<u>Financial Report</u> (Jodi A): The Vision board reviewed the report with Jodi A. John D motioned to approve/ Second by Jodi E.

<u>Youth Report:</u> Cassie sent in the Youth report via email. Fundraiser updates for the Pizza Sales and the Butter Braids. The plane costs were higher due to making sure everyone gets on 1 plane, we are working with Travel Professionals. We discussed that after the financial process audit, we should review the controls around the youth account, currently Rhonda B and Cassie T, have access. Would like to know how close the youth are to their goal. Kathi H motioned to approve report/ Second by John D.

Old Business

<u>Synod assembly representation:</u> Joe and Melissa Noth have volunteered- Jen will confirm with them. Would like to send a youth member as well. Sr. Becky will reach out to Cassie to see if anyone is interested. June 8-10.

Currents

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<u>Charity in Good Standing:</u> Texas requires a form filled out to be exempt from some of the room taxes. It will save \$25 a room /a night. Kathi H stated she would review and fill out.

<u>Bulletin Board:</u> Discussion on getting the Bulletin board hung up over the pew in the narthex. Mandi made a motion that the bulletin board should be centered between the end of the wall and the thermostat. Second by John D. Archie will put up the board.

<u>Mission Giving:</u> In reviewing the Budget the dollar amount stayed the same for what we are giving to Missions. But due to the dollars taken out of the budget in other areas the percentage of the budget that we give to Missions went up (no dollars were taken away).

New Business

Moving Payroll in house: Discussion about having Jodi run payroll. She has background and does this for other churches and knows the laws. Currently Engelson & Associates does this for us. Benefits would be that it would save us \$640 a year. Questions raised 1. What if we leave Engelson and then for some reason we would need to come back? 2. Would we need to do the cut off at a quarter, so it is easier to manage? Jodi E will discuss further with Jodi A. and report back.

Building use policy: Vision board will review the policy and revisit in March.

Rebuilding Ministry teams- discussion around our ministry teams, what teams do we currently have, what do we need? How do we want to utilize them and what process do we want to use? Brought us back to our discussion about Spiritual gifts during out devotion. Want the congregation members to be involved in things they are passionate about and use their gifts.

<u>Welcome team for New Member Sunday:</u> Asked to have paper name tags, Mandi, John, and Kathi would be there Sunday Feb 19th. A motion was made for real name tags for congregation members but was tabled until we can do some research on prices.

Motion to adjourn was made by Kathi H./Second by Philip J.

Next Meeting will be March 15th at 6:30pm.



Halfway Creek Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday School at 9:15 a.m. Sister Becky Swanson

OFFICE HOURS

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

