



CURRENTS — MAY 2018

Wear Red May 20!

On Sunday, May 20 we will celebrate the festival of Pentecost – the day when the Church was born when the Holy Spirit poured out on all the followers of Jesus who were gathered in Jerusalem after his ascension into heaven. (See Acts 2:1-21)

In the church, RED is the color of the Holy Spirit. You are invited to dress in red that day. We'll have a party with delicious treats from around the world between services.

We will also give thanks for graduates that day. If you or a loved one is graduating this year, please let the office know by May 14 so that we may include you in the celebration.



Sunday Worship Schedule

May 6

8:00 am Worship Service
10:30 am Worship Service

May 13—Happy Mother's Day

8:00 am Worship Service
9:15 am Last Day of Sunday School
10:30 am Worship Service

May 20

8:00 am Worship Service
10:30 am Worship Service

May 27—Summer Schedule Begins

9:00 am Worship Service Only



May 30-Summer Bible Study Begins

(see pg 3 for details)

FROM SISTER BECKY

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

What joy to be able to continue to celebrate the Easter season!

As I write this letter to you, the scene out my window is more reminiscent of a bright January day than a day in mid-April. No greening grass or budding trees; the tulips that pushed up around the lamp post by the driveway are covered again in snow. Although the sun is blazing, the wind is brisk and COLD and the field across from the church is blinding in its snow-covered whiteness.

We live in hope that spring will come – although we see little proof or signs of it today. Paul says as followers of Jesus we walk by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). Maybe this is a little object lesson of what it is to walk forward in faith, trusting in God's promises.

Our trust that spring will come is borne out in our plans and actions. We are planning all sorts of wonderful spring gatherings for this month! The Sunday School program year will be celebrated on May 13, the Festival of Pentecost on May 20 along with recognizing graduates and fun around our collection for World Hunger. Already on May 27 we move to our summer worship schedule as we celebrate Holy Trinity Sunday at 9:00 a.m. that morning. So how else is our trust in God's promises being borne out in our plans and actions? I look around and see so many signs of trust and faith!

How is your reading of the story of the early church going? (If you've fallen behind, don't worry! Just jump in where we are!) What are you noticing? What questions does it raise for our life together? What ideas are percolating about how we might plan to reach out as witnesses of Jesus to our neighbors?

The church celebrates Pentecost on May 20 – remembering the story in Acts 2 of the huge crowd in Jerusalem at the beginning of the life of the church. But that's not the one and only time that God pours out God's Spirit on God's own people!

I'm struck as I read through this story again how many times the Holy Spirit is gifted to people. It started with the risen (crucified) Jesus breathing on them as they hide together in the first weeks. I had forgotten how many different times the Holy Spirit is given to individuals and crowds. This year, I notice that the pouring out of the Spirit happens over and over again – not only on that Pentecost day but repeatedly in the Temple, in peoples' homes, at gatherings all over the countryside. And what happens to the community afterwards is not completely predictable.

Sometimes I think May is the busiest month of the year next to December. For families with school aged children and school workers it is a flurry of end-of-the-year concerts, programs, awards, graduations (to name just a few) overlapping with the start of sports seasons. The frantic activity can mean we arrive at summer exhausted and burned out. I pray that you can find moments to pay attention to God's Spirit surrounding you, to be comforted that God's love is for you without you having to earn it. God's Spirit is breathing life into us together and that Spirit is inspiring us to be present for one another not only on Sunday morning at church, but also at the school auditorium and the ball field; ready to listen and be present for those around us.

And here's praying that April snows bring May flowers, too!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!



SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

Sr. Becky will lead a summer Bible study this summer. The focus of the study will be the readings assigned for the following Sunday. In June and the first part of July we will dive into the stories found in 1st Samuel (the old testament readings) and see how they interact with the Gospel readings.

Starting in the middle of July through the end of August we will focus on the book of Ephesians. A letter to a congregation in first century Ephesus that is tries to encourage them to live a "resurrected life" together. (You may also want to read "Practice Resurrection: A Conversation on Growing up in Christ" by Eugene H. Peterson)

Watch the bulletin or email for dates and more information.

Easter Season Bible Study – The Book of Acts Daily Reading

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 PENTE-	

May 2018

May 2018							June 2018						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Apr 29	30	May 1	2	3	4	5
8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	9:00am Staff Meeting 11:00am Funeral for Paul Jostad	6:00pm Worship Team Rehearsal 6:00pm Confirmation Class-Final Class 7:00pm Call Committee Meeting w/Bishop	6:00pm Worship Team Rehearsal	6:30pm Vision Board 6:30pm Executive Team	6:30pm Created to Create has been cancelled due to scheduling conflicts. Plan to attend June 1 & 2.	8:00am Created to Create has been cancelled due to scheduling conflicts. Plan to attend June 1 & 2.
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	5:30pm Creative Memory - Making Ideas @ Mayo Health (Lang Conference Room, 800 West Ave., La Crosse)	9:00am Staff Meeting	6:00pm Worship Team Rehearsal			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Mother's Day 8:00am Worship Service 10:30am Worship Service - Baptism		9:00am Staff Meeting	6:00pm Worship Team Rehearsal	9:30am Bible Study		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8:00am Worship Service - Wear Red for the Festival of Pentecost 10:30am Worship Service - Wear Red for the Festival 5:00pm Living Hope Supper in Ettrick	Currents Deadline	9:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Theology Uncorked - Summer & Sabbath Time! (Lori Schipper's Home)	6:00pm Worship Team Rehearsal			
27	28	29	30	31	Jun 1	2
9:00am Worship Service - The start of Summer Schedule for Worship	Memorial Day	9:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Holmen's Hope monthly dinner at American Legion	6:00pm Worship Team Rehearsal 6:00pm Bible Study			

VISION BOARD MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 15, 2018

March 15 6:30pm | Meeting called to order by Jen S at 6:37pm

In Attendance: Jodi Eide, Kathi Hagel, Mandi Horstman, Philip Johnson, Jen Strangstalien, Gaye Johnson, Marina Holley

Absent: Rich Berger (excused), John Daily (excused)

Devotions: Luke 10:1-12

Approval of Agenda: H & I can be done by the Executive team. Will be remove. B move to Next month

A motion was made by Kathi to approve the Agenda with additions, . Marla gave the second.

Approval of Minutes: Mark absences as excused in future. Gaye motioned to approve the February Minutes and Kathi gave the second.

Reports

Ministry Report: Handed out- Discussed the reasons the vinyl banner did not work, the letters fell off and then the banner ripped. Thought of adding posts in the Spring that we can leave in all year long, but there is not any money in the budget for those items. Kathi said she has access to vinyl banners made for free. Updating the brick sign might be something we could look for in the future but need to discuss with the Property committee and would need to work into the budget. Kathi motioned, Marna second.

Financial Report: Jodi A would like to move from Quick books to Icon. The advantage of working through Icon, it helps elevate some duplication entry. Department of Labor has incorrect EIN on the W2 and Engleson stated that was the one that put on there, but we have 3. Direct deposit first day was today, no news is good news. Tuesday at 10am Jodi E has access to the Treasurers email. We will approve the Financial Report for Jan-Mar at the next meeting, Jodi E will discuss with Jodi A.

Youth Report: Update from Cassie: March 29th at the 4-6pm, youth will be serving April 1 Breakfast, Big Boar April 22 11:30-2:30pm would like to pre-sale 200 tickets. Sr. Becky will help share with the other churches. May 26th Brat Barn from 10-5pm.

Music & Liturgy Report: Whispering Pines – Gaye will discuss with Archie on checking the area for needed repair. We discussed microphone repairs and updating needed on those and other equipment. Also discussed Summer alternate schedule Sr Becky reached out to the other pastors and they did not seem interested in helping to host. Phil motion/Kathi second

Old Business

Synod assembly representation- Jon and Jen S will go.

Charity in Good Standing- We are cleared from an earlier report from Texas. Thank you Kathi

Name Tags- Marna has an option for a welcome center will bring to the next meeting. Marna motion/ Mandi Second- Outreach and fellowship. Target Sunday- Mother's Day

Moving Payroll "in house"- \$275 a year to get the module for Icon. Jodi A thinks this will be within her budgeted amount. Motion to move payroll for 3rd quarter. Kathi motioned/ Jodi second

New Business

New Member to be received- Nicole and Joe Lepsch, Noah & Gary Anderson . Motion Mandi / Phil second

Housing Allowance- moved to next month

Summer Worship – May 27- Sept 16 Kathi motioned / Marna second

Call Committee- Jen S- resigned, Marna will send out an email to the current call committee and discuss the resignation and restarting.

Habitat for Humanity- Build in La Crosse- suggested to table.

Building use policy- table till next month

North Caucus Pre-Assembly (Hospitality April 23 @ 7pm)- Greeters and Refreshments.

Parsonage Maintenance- Executive Board

Ergonomic Review- Executive Board

Good of the Order

Closing Prayer

Motion to adjourn was made by Marna./Second by Kathi

Next Meeting April 19th 6:30pm.



SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE CHANGE

This year the last day of Sunday School will be on May 13th at 9:15 am.

MILK MOOLA FUND RAISER

Do you buy milk, orange juice or even Nature's Touch drinking water from Kwik Trip? Now you can turn that Milk Moola in to the church drop off box and Kwik Trip will give the youth 5 cents back, just another way we can help the youth fund raise. Look for the logo on all size of containers including the bag products. Please return only the part that has the Milk Moola logo on. This will be an ongoing.

HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE GRADUATES RECOGNITION



On May 20th at both the services, the high school and college graduates will be honored. Please contact the church office by Monday, May 14 if you or someone in your family is graduating this spring.

SUMMER USHERS/ACOLYTES & WORSHIP LEADERS NEEDED

Are you interested in helping out at worship services this summer? We typically have confirmation students and their families Usher /Acolyte, but in the summer, we open this up to anyone that wants to help. This is open to people of all ages. Families with young children may want to volunteer as a way to

introduce them to serving in the church. Your duties are to light the candles before service, hand out bulletins and take up the collection. If we get enough volunteers, you may only be asked to do this once this summer. Worship Leader sign-ups consist of lectors, communion assistants and hospitality needed for our

service. Please look for a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the gathering area, call the office at 608-526-3701 or the website www.halfwaycreek.org. Look for the Sign Up Genuis Button on the first page.



WORLD HUNGER APPEAL DAY - MAY 20

We are working to raise money for the ECLA World Hunger Appeal. Let's send a flock of sheep to the Synod Assembly in June. For every \$500 donated, we will send one wooden sheep to the Synod Assembly. We are decorating the sheep with stars and shepherds. Each star is \$1 and a shepherd is \$25.

If the congregation raises \$500,
Sister Becky will dye her hair. Will it be red, blue, pink or green?
 (\$500 per color)

Join us in celebrating the gifts of the Holy Spirit for the whole world! Worship with us at 8:00 or 10:30 and join us between services for international treats and intergenerational, interactive fun, learning how the church is helping around the world

The color of the day is red (or flame colored).

ELCA World Hunger

More than 800 million people - that's 11 percent of people in our world today - are hungry. As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work.

Working with and through our congregation, in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands Lutheran churches overseas and other partners, **ELCA World Hunger** is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

Hunger facts

815 million people around the world - that's more than 1 in 10 - can't access the food they need to live active, healthy lives. [1]

According to the most recent estimates, 766.6 million people live in extreme poverty on less than \$1.90 per day. That's 10.7% of the world's population. [2]

At some point in 2016 (the most recent year available), more than 41.2 million people in the United States were unsure where their next meal might come from. [3]

40.6 million Americans were living in poverty in 2016. For a family of four, this means their annual household income was below \$24,563. [4]

[1] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2017;

[2] The World Bank, 2015

[3] USDA, 2017; [4] US Census Bureau, 2017



CONGRATULATIONS CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

Confirmands affirmed their baptism in the Rite of Confirmation on Sunday, April 29th. Support our young people on this milestone of their faith journey! The Confirmands this year were: **Zach Arendt, Erin Bringe, Brooklynn Cook, Noah Nelson, Kennedy Strangstalien, Aiztdon Stumlin and Carter Thiele.**

Welcome

We received these new Members on April 22, 2018

Lori Anderson

Marcella McDonald

Jordan, Maureen & JJ Ouellette

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!



HOW TO HELP THE HCLC YOUTH RAISE FUNDS FOR EVENTS

BRAT BARN AT FESTIVAL FOODS

The HCLC Youth Group continues to raise money for their adventure to Texas this summer. We will be at the Brat Barn at Festival Foods in Holmen on Saturday, May 26th. Stop by between 10:00 am–5:00 pm.



SCRIP AVAILABLE

Buying groceries? Filling your car with gas? Thinking of a graduation gift? Mother's Day or Father's Day? We have over 50 vendors that you can purchase from through our Scrip program. By ordering your cards in advance, guarantees that they will be here for giving. See the inserted form for a listing of multitude of vendors available. Stop by the Scrip table after first service and before second service.

MONETARY GIVING SUPPORT

If God is calling you to make a monetary donation, you may drop it off at the office, send it in the mail, place in the offering plate or pick up one of the envelopes on the bulletin board in the Narthex. What a **wonderful God moving** experience for our youth to share with over 35,000 others at the Gathering in Houston, Texas!! Let our church community open our hearts and share what we have.

YOUTH GROUP THANK YOU

A big thank you to everyone who helped out and participated in our Lent dinners this year! Thanks for all who sold tickets and came to eat at the Big Boar Barbecue on April 22nd. Remember to fill your car and bellies with Kwik Trip and Festival Gift Cards. Thank you to Cassie Tolvstad for pulling it together.

Thank you all for your prayers, support through our fundraising efforts, and for help us fulfill our mission to *Share Christ with All.*

- Cassie Tolvstad

*Thank
You*

SERVING AND WORSHIP

		ACOLYTE	SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	OFFERING COUNTERS	LECTOR	COMMUNION ASSIST.	USHERS
MAY 6	8:00	Volunteer needed	Mike Martin	Carrie Payne Nicole Stumlin	Rhonda Britton Sonja Nelson	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed
	10:30	Volunteer needed	Morgan Jostad			Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed
MAY 13	8:00	Volunteer needed	Stan Schwier	Karla Johnson Diane Jostad	Bette Pedretti Susan Jostad	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed
	10:30	Volunteer needed	David Chase			John Daily	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed
MAY 20	8:00	Volunteer needed	Archie Achterkirch	Nancy Holley Diane Jostad	Jodi Eide Patti Happel	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed
	10:30	Volunteer needed				Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed
Switching to One Worship Time								
MAY 27	9:00	Volunteer needed	Dave Bringe Russ Bringe	Bette Pedretti Barb Hale	Joe Noth	Marge Lee	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed

Lots of Opportunity— Volunteer for a Service

To make Sunday Services a success, your time is needed. Go to www.halfwaycreek.org and select the Sign-Up Genius button. Two other ways is to call the office 608-526-3701 or use the sign up sheets on the bulletin board near the coffee area.



<p>1 Abigail Fredrickson Lise Graham</p> <p>2 Shayne Herman Keena Noth Melissa Strauss</p> <p>3 Tina Mueller</p> <p>4 Laura Arnold Nancy Holley</p> <p>5 Paul Anderson Lyle Gordon Joseph Noth</p> <p>6 Benjamin Johnson</p>	<p>7 Joshua Daily</p> <p>8 Samantha Hammond Seth Heiser Megan Jostad-Myhre Jordan Ouellette</p> <p>9 Evlyn Clark</p> <p>10 Samantha Bartnik Lauren Bringe Patricia Krause Betty Schmidt</p> <p>11 Mary Severson</p> <p>14 Sayde Nelson</p> <p>15 Paul Eide Kermit Jostad</p>	<p>16 William Achterkirch</p> <p>17 Roger Casberg Nicole Plomedahl</p> <p>19 Susan Chase</p> <p>20 Zach Arendt Dylan Severson Emma Steffen</p> <p>22 Gavin Steffen</p> <p>24 Barb Hale James Noel</p> <p>25 Priscilla Achterkirch Jon Strangstalien Olivia Temp</p>	<p>26 Kelly Steffen</p> <p>27 Susan Anderson Jeffery Severson Adam Steffen</p> <p>31 Pamela Gran</p>
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We pray especially for Roy Ackermann, Talon Lichtie, Aiden Noth, Katie Wier, Finn Swenson, Phoebe Kitzke, Sophia Zematis, Ayla Humphrey, Ted Latham, Gayle Kuespert, Andrea Baxter, Jim Ainslie, Jenny Wegner, Rich Berger, Sue Bjerke, Matt & Cassie Tolvstad, Family of Donna Dummer, Todd Johnson and Paul Jostad



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

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

