



Halfway Creek

LUTHERAN CHURCH

CURRENTS

JULY 2019

Reaching Out to Share Christ with All

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE 9:00 AM

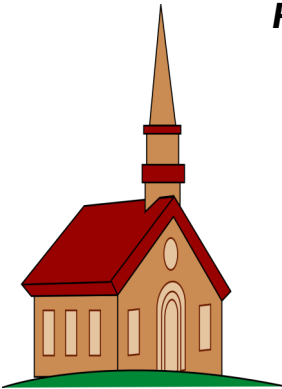
July 7-- service

July 14 -- service

Congregation Meeting & Conversation (see page 4)

July 21 -- service

July 28 --outdoor service & baptism



Looking for a creative way to express yourself. How about Prayer Palette?

During the summer, we will meet once a month at 6:00 pm. If you have never picked up a brush, you can do it. A time for fellowship and finding out what is in your soul. Taught by our new member, Mary Thompson who teaches a similar class at the Spirituality Center during the school year. Watch for more details in the bulletin and weekly email. Cost is \$12.00. To register: Call the office or email assistant@halfwaycreek.org. **Dates: Monday, July 15 & August 19**



BRAT BARN UPDATE



On June 8th, \$873.00 was raised at the Festival Brat Barn. The Vision Board decided to split the proceeds between Socks & Underwear through the Synod and Coulee Life Church for the backpack program or Holmen's Hope Summer Lunches.

Thanks to Mike Nedoba, his family and the volunteers for all their work!

Office will be closed on Thursday, July 4th. Enjoy the 4th of July!



SYNOD ASSEMBLY RECAP

Walk. LOVE. Do. – 2019 Synod Assembly of the La Crosse Area Synod

Opening worship filled with colorful banners, wonderful music and a message of hope for the church beyond the four walls. The scripture for the weekend assembly was Micah 6:6-8.

Bishop Arends Sermon without the breath of God we are just a lump of clay.

“We live by the breath of God! In this we rejoice. In this we are thankful. And humbly and thankfully we respond. When the Spirit of God is our life she leads us into Godly living. That is loving kindness; that is doing justice – because we walk humbly with our God.”

“In this assembly we are being challenged to live God’s kindness and justice in our own congregations. We are challenged to see the needs in the people in our pews and the needs in our neighbors. We hear a call to care, to reach out and to lift up. We humbly hear the challenge, we pray to see others through the eyes of Christ, and we strive to love and to love and to love.”

Saturday’s Report of the Registrar:

55 Pastors

154 Lay

209 Voting members

58 guests & volunteers

Workshops:

Faithful Servant – Officer Joel Miller from the La Crosse Police Department

Empathy vs. Sympathy

Offender focus to victim focus

Trauma informed practices

Respect human dignity for all

Be Christ

Grace not grief

The Invisible Homeless in Your Town – Journey Lutheran

66 Homeless high school kids in the School District of Holmen

Area churches worked together to help this need

Halfway Creek quilts were greatly appreciated

Summer months the needs change since school is not in session

Create a plan of action for your congregation

Support food pantries, Holmen’s Hope

Sunday’s Report of the Registrar:

45 Pastors

191 Lay

236 Voting members

21 Guests & Volunteers

Pastor Libby Howe: “Goal to increase Mission Support in 2019, Mission Support means to tell the story.”

“A life of service is a journey.”

Budget & Salary guidelines were passed

Socks & Underwear project provided over 30,000 pairs of socks and underwear which will be distributed to several communities throughout the La Crosse Synod. Several boxes will also be sent to Support the mission of AMMPARO & Immigration. AMMPARO stands for Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities.

Lutheran Campus Ministry 20@2020 Campaign – looking for 200 people to become \$20/month sustaining givers. At the assembly over 34 people had already committed to this campaign.

Resolutions Passed:

Support ELCA Hunger Ministry – encourage each synod congregation to take time on a regular basis throughout the year to call awareness to the problem of hunger. Each congregation set aside at least one Sunday each year to reflect on caring for those who are hungry and to have at least one representative to serve as a hunger leader.

***Rally Sunday Crop Walk (?)

***Hunger Jar collecting money once a month to give to world hunger

***Holmen's Hope

***Homeless concerns in Holmen community

La Crosse Area Synod will support the Poor People's Campaign and encourage its congregation and members to participate in the organizing, advocacy, and actions of the campaign. We are called to stand with poor and powerless people, to advocate justice, to work for peace, and to care for the earth.

***Invite members to be called to service addressing the system

***Relationship building

In 2020 the Synod Assembly of La Crosse will be held from June 12-14. At that time, a new bishop will be elected.

Thank you for allowing me to represent Halfway Creek Lutheran Church for this assembly.

Ruth Scholze

HAPPENINGS AT HCLC

Congregation Conversation—Sunday, July 14th

The Vision Board has continued to evaluate and discuss the financial health of HCLC. We are inviting you to join in the discussion and decision making at a congregational conversation on Sunday, July 14th at 10:00 am.

Your Worship Team—Sunday, July 28th

The Halfway Creek Lutheran Worship Team was formed more than 15 years ago. Our mission is to enhance the worship experience through music. To expose and teach new, often contemporary music, to the congregation and to lead a less traditional style of worship service. During much of this time, we experience growth in worship attendance. For this reason, we decided several years ago to utilize the choir loft space for the Worship Team. The move would allow more seating in the sanctuary. In addition, moving the sound equipment allowed us to remove the trip hazard that existed with the sound equipment cords.

What we did not anticipate, was the loss of engagement with the congregation. It is difficult, if not impossible, to see the team in the loft and it is difficult for the team to see the congregation. The Worship Team would like to move back to the main floor of the sanctuary. We would move in front of the organ where we were stationed for so many years. The cords can be brought in from the loft to eliminate the trip hazard. We are asking for feedback on this proposed change. We ask you to talk to Worship Team members and let them know what you think. If you would like us to move back down to the floor, let us know. If you have any concerns about the change, let us know about that as well.

Many people have been involved with the Worship Team over the years. One of our greatest joys has been “worshiping well.” The mixture of contemporary songs and traditional hymns resulted in a blended service that most seemed to enjoy. Much of the positive energy we received while leading music, came from the congregation. We miss that engagement.

The Worship Team has taken some time off this summer. Our first service will be on July 28. **We would like to be on the main floor by then. Please let us know your thoughts before July 28.** The Worship Team members are: Laurie Noelke, Jon Strangstalien, Kathi Hagel, Patti Happel, Kennedy Strangstalien, and John Daily. Thank You



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING SOON!!

Who: Children going into preschool-5th grade

Dates: August 4-7

Time: 6:00pm to 8:00pm with free supper offered at 5:30 for children and their families.

Place: Journey Lutheran Church, 2703 Sand Lake Road

If you would be interested in volunteering in any way please let Carrie know at payne.carrie@hotmail.com

Kornfest Parade Fun - Saturday, August 17th

Kornfest is coming up August 16-18, 2019. We will be having a float in the parade on August 17th. Anyone interested in participating to hand out candy should contact Mike Nedoba (608)769-7829 or Jodi Eide (608) 399-5051. We are also looking for candy donations. All are welcome to come out and have some fun representing HCLC.

2019 Women's Retreat "Come Near the Well" August 9-11 at Assisi Heights, Rochester, MN

Women from Halfway Creek, Holmen Lutheran, Journey Lutheran, Mindoro-Lewis Valley Lutheran are invited for a time of prayer, study, & rest. Sessions centered around bible stories of being restored by the gift of Living Water. Register online via the Facebook Event or by sending a check for \$25 to HCLC Office (please include your contact information.) Total cost will be around \$100 per person and includes two-nights single accommodations, four meals, and snacks.

Holmen's Hope Meal September

Halfway Creek Lutheran is responsible for preparing and serving the Holmen's Hope Meal on **Tuesday, September 24 at the American Legion**. We are in need of volunteers to help plan and prepare the meal. Contact : Mike Nedoba at MichaelN19@yahoo.com or 608-769-7829. Church: 526-3701 or assistant@halfwaycreek.org if you are willing to be a part of this ministry.

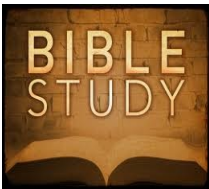


Commissioning Youth

On Sunday, June 23th at 9:00 AM service a commissioning for our youth and leaders was held. They were heading to Superior, WI to complete a service trip. Their experiences will be shared with the congregation. People that represented Halfway Creek Lutheran Church were: Abby Bramwell, Gavin Bramwell, Brooklyn Cook, Kennedy Strangstalien, Aizdon Stumlin, Cassie Tolvstad, Jen Strangstalien. We send them with our blessings and to share the love of Christ.

Designed by TownMagics.com

Online Summer Bible Study

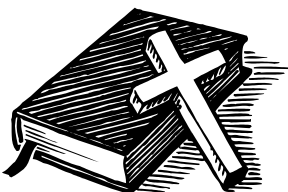


Every Tuesday evening Sister Becky will hold an *online* Bible study via Facebook Live at 7:30 pm. Watch our Facebook page for information. We will use the readings for the upcoming Sunday as a basis for our time together. All you need is access to our Facebook page! (You do NOT need a web cam to participate.)

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 608-526-3701, please contact Sister Becky Swanson directly at one of the following numbers: **Her Cell:** 612-327-5087; **Her Church Line:** 608-399-3339

Have a Prayer Request?

A gentle reminder that a person's name will only be placed on the public prayer list if we have direct permission from the person or an immediate family member. If we receive a prayer request from a third party, Sr. Becky will pass the name only on to the prayer chain – no details of the request. She will attempt to contact the person or family member directly to schedule a visit and/or to get their permission to include them in the prayers of the church.



We pray for Roy Ackermann, Aiden Noth, Katie Wier, Phoebe Kitzke, Ayla Humphrey, Ted Latham, Gayle Kuespert, Sue Bjerke, Larry Severson, Mark Sanders, Beulah Sanders, Betty Schmidt, Andy & Andrea Weckherlin, Maureen Ouellette, Orin Nyseth, Sarahann Jones, Holly Peterson, Cary Heyer

Financial Report Update from Q & A on June 16, 2019

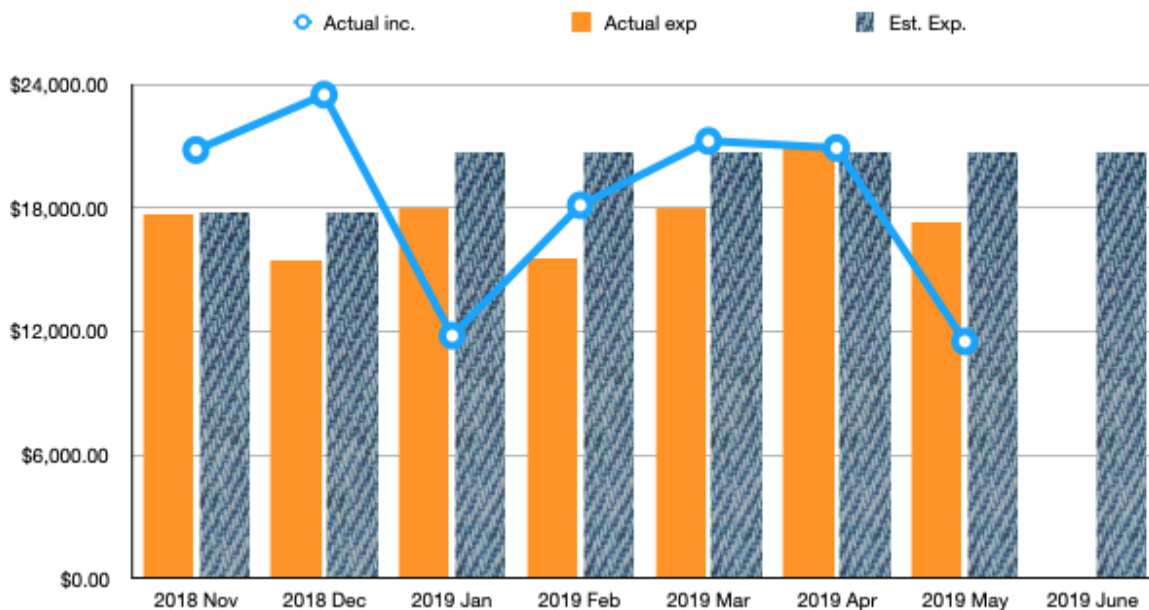
Thanks to everyone who gave generously in early June to assist us with meeting immediate expenses.

In November 2018, we withdrew \$8,000 from our Thrivent fund to cover expenses. Year to date \$4,492 has been paid back with a remaining \$3,508 to be paid back. Let's please keep it going. Please reference contributions with Repay Thrivent Fund.

When the Thrivent Fund was opened there was a Trust Foundation document created to provide oversight of the funds. The Vision Board is looking for an individual(s) that has expertise in this area to provide feedback on the document. If interested please contact Rose in the church office.

Our dedicated funds have been paid back in full from the money that was borrowed in 2018 to cover expenses.

Each Sunday following the monthly Vision Board meeting we are reviewing the prior month and year to date financials. During the summer months we will meet after service.



VISION BOARD MEETING MINUTES FROM MAY 9, 2019

In Attendance: Ruth Scholze, Jen Strangstalien, Mandi Horstman, Gaye Johnson, Mike Nedoba, John Daily, Sr. Becky Swanson

Absent: Kathi Hagel, Patti Happel

Call to Order – Jen Strangstalien at 6:07pm

Devotion/Reflection – The Agile Church

Approval of Agenda- Motion to approve by Ruth, Gaye made the second, motion passed.

Approval of April 2019 Minutes- Motion to approve minutes with minor changes made by Mike, second by Ruth- Motion Passed

Ministry Report- Motion to receive the Ministry report made by Gaye, John seconded- Motion passed.

Financial Report-

April 2019 Total Revenue: \$20,911.14; Total Expenditures: \$21,014.82

YTD Revenue: \$125,131.37; YTD \$75,720.86

It looks like financially we are ahead but that is due to the contributions to payback our Thrivent fund and dedicated funds. We are making good headway in paying those back. Jodi talked Todd Trautman about the trust fund, they reviewed the paperwork and but the board never was developed. Should reach out to the congregation to see if there is anyone that has a talent for financial background to help guide us.

Discussion on putting together the capital fundraiser.

We will meet for the financial discussion on Sunday morning in between services, 5/12/19..

Motion to approve the financial report made by Gaye, seconded by Mike- Motion Passed

Old Business

Ministry Teams- Meeting held Tuesday 5/7/19. Kathi Hagel will type up a report and bring to June Meeting. We had at least 1 person from each team except the Property team. Good discussion happened and was a good start.

Principle Reduction Drive-

Brat Barn- Ruth took out a Thrivent Action plan- we are not using the Brat Barn for the principle reduction but for our mission outside the church, like buying socks and underwear for the homeless, the lunch backpack program... Sign up push on May 19th.

Do we want to do a debt reduction/general fund focus? We want to be able to support our teams and mission.

We continue to discuss, but at this time we do not feel we want to do debt reduction/or principle reduction drive. We will need to think about doing one with in the next 2 years. But we will continue to encourage the support of debt reduction and funding our general fund so we can support our ministries

Stewardship for All Seasons- Amy is meeting with the Stewardship meeting this month. The synod did not get as much grant money as they had hoped, which would of subsidized the payment for us.

Sanctuary Roof – John Daily will discuss with Archie to see when the roof actually needs to be done this year.

New Business

Meeting with the Bishop – Candidacy committee meeting is August 15th, following the approval of the candidacy committee, we can call a congregational meeting to vote on calling Sister Becky. We need to call the meeting at least 2 weeks in advance. Jen might be meeting with the Bishop again prior to August to get more details.

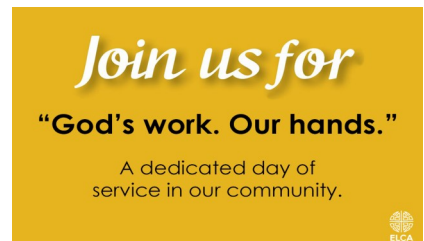
Space Planning- Discussion of changing the coffee area. Not a good time to do it, but possibly a long term goal. But good to get the information out there. The thought is to make the area more hospitable and accessible. Invite the discussion.

Closing Prayer- Lord's Prayer

Adjournment

God's Work Our Hands Sunday – September 8th

We will again join with Holmen Lutheran at the Holmen Band Shell for outdoor worship together, lunch and a service project. You are invited to sing in the group choir and praise band. Our service project will be Health Kits for Lutheran World Relief. **This year, we will collect full size towels and soap.** Our goal is 300 kits. Collection boxes will be available on the pews in the entry way beginning July 8.



July 2019

July 2019

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

Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
 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
Jun 30	Jul 1	2 7:30am Online Summer Bible Study via HCLC Facebook Page	3 Youth return from Superior, WI 9:30am Garden Ministry Team - Meet by Garden	4 Independence Day Office is closed in celebration of Fourth of July	5	6
7 9:00am Worship	8	9 7:30am Online Summer Bible Study via HCLC Facebook Page	10 9:30am Garden Ministry Team - Meet by Garden	11 6:00pm Vision Board	12	13
14 9:00am Worship 10:15am Congregation Meeting & Conversation	15 Currents Deadline 6:00pm Prayer Palette	16 7:30am Online Summer Bible Study via HCLC Facebook Page	17 9:30am Garden Ministry Team - Meet by Garden	18 Sr. Becky on Vacation	19	20
21 Sr. Becky on Vacation 9:00am Worship 5:00pm Living Hope Supper in Ettrick	22	23 7:30am Online Summer Bible Study via HCLC Facebook Page	24 9:30am Garden Ministry Team - Meet by Garden	25	26	27
28 9:00am Outdoor Worship & Baptism of Micah Hill 10:15am Worship Area Change Deadline 4:30pm HCLC picnic @ Holmen music in the park	29	30 7:30am Online Summer Bible Study via HCLC Facebook Page 5:00pm Holmen's Hope monthly dinner at American Legion	31 9:30am Garden Ministry Team - Meet by Garden	Aug 1	2	3

HCLC Assistant

SERVING AND WORSHIP

		SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	OFFERING
J U L Y 7	9 0 0	Morgan Jostad	Carrie Payne Nicole Stumlin	Rhonda Britton Sonja Nelson
J U L Y 1	9 0 0	Kermit Jostad	Karla Johnson Diane Jostad	Bette Pedretti Susan Jostad
J U L Y 2 1	9 0 0	Archie Achterkirch	Diane Jostad Nancy Holley	Jodi Eide Volunteer Needed
J U L Y 2 8	9 0 0	David Chase	Barb Hale Bette Pedretti	Joe Noth Volunteer Needed

Volunteer to help at Worship

For the month of July your assistance at each service is needed:

- ♦ **Acolytes**
- ♦ **Greeters**
- ♦ **Communion Assistants**
- ♦ **Lectors**
- ♦ **Powerpoint**
- ♦ **Ushers**

Use Sign-up Genius button on the website; email assistant@halfwaycreek.org or there are sign up sheets on the bulletin board near coffee area.

Gifting of your time is important to help meet the needs of this congregation at each service.

Sexton and Offering Counters are needed to assist on a monthly basis. If you want to know more, please contact the office.

Thank you to those that serve the church!



JULY BIRTHDAYS

If your birthday is missing, please notify the office.

1

Braxtyn Jensen-Pralle
Earl Hammond

2

Ryan Happel

6

Ryan Beville
Brianna Cook
Daryl Holley
Ann Stasiak

7

Wesley Tiffany

8

Nicole Craig
DeeDee Kolbo

9

Bette Pedretti
Katherine Stasiak

10

Nola Anderson

11

Heather Dokkebaken

Jacob Wegner

12

Gladys Albers
Leann Theisen
David Chase

13

Jessie Booth
Jerin Rink

14

Mike Bramwell
Joel Oines

15

Cassandra Bandoli
Raymond Lee

16

Carolyn Bjerke
Richard Granum

17

Gracie Holley

18

Diana Berger

19

Richard Gran
Macie Larson
Darren Nelson

Alyssa Rink

21

Bryson Happel

23

Landry Hill

24

Joanne Nichols

25

Ella Gander

26

Camden Lee

28

Carilyn Daily
Erin Hale
Lane Hansen

30

Robyn Shisler

31

Kendall Yahnke



Spiritual Discipline - Gratitude

Being thankful for what God has done can sometimes seem a little abstract. A simple first step to develop the spiritual discipline of gratitude is to **pause before each meal and give thanks** to God for providing this part of your “daily bread”. A simple prayer you might say as a family is: “God is great. God is good. Let us thank God for this food. Amen.” Or “Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest and let these gifts to us be blest. Amen” Or if you feel awkward praying at a restaurant, pause before you dig in for three breaths. As you breathe in, pray “thank you” and as you breathe out “Jesus”.

Halfway Creek Lutheran Church
608-526-3701
www.halfwaycreek.org

Worship 9:00 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

Sr Becky Direct: 608-399-3339

Office : 608-526-3701

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

