



Halfway Creek

LUTHERAN CHURCH

CURRENTS

OCTOBER, 2019

Reaching Out to Share Christ with All

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

October 6

8:00 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship & Sunday
School Singing & Bibles for
3rd grade or Pre-School

October 13– one service today

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship

October 20

8:00 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship

October 27—Reformation Sunday

8:00 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship

CONFIRMATION BEGINS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2 @ 6:00 PM

Join HCLC, Holmen Lutheran & Journey, Saturday, October 19, 3:00-5:00 PM at Halfway Creek Church. Children will Trunk (Trick) or Treat to each vehicle! You are invited to decorate your trunk, car, tractor, wagon, camper, or a vehicle of choice. Wear a costume and have fun! Watch for signup sheets to volunteer.

Bring canned items for the food drive. To participate or donate: contact Carrie Payne (text or call) 608-790-4401 or email payne.carrie@hotmail.com; Cassie Tolvstad (text or call) 608-738-4761 or email ctremain14@gmail.com.



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY—NOVEMBER 3RD

Provides an opportunity to give thanks for all the faithful saints—those who have gone before us and those still living. As part of our commemoration, those who have been baptized into the communion of saints during this past year as well as those who have passed on and have entered into life with Christ. If you would like your loved one remembered, contact the office, 608-526-3701 or assistant@halfwaycreek.org.

NOTE FROM SR. BECKY

Dear friends in Christ,

October is going to bring some changes to how we work together in reaching out to share Christ with all. As we move forward into this shift I invite you to stay connected to your faith community.

Together, we have continued to move into a greater appropriate level of visibility into the finances at HCLC and I congratulate Jodi Eide, your treasurer in the way she has faithfully reported some hard facts to all of us over the last couple of years. I pray that as you move forward you continue to work together to build increasing trust amongst you about how the offerings you contribute to the ministry at HCLC and beyond are used.

In addition to building trust around the financial health of the congregation, you have the great opportunity to continue to build and re-build trust between the congregation and your elected leaders. Building and re-building trust requires an incredible amount of open and above board communication. It requires a time commitment from everyone to allow conversations to be group conversations and not simply parking lot conversations or individual one-one-one conversations. It requires a great deal of listening with love to one another, which I'm confident you can do.

These kinds of conversations are not always easy. I have found in the midst of such conversations to remember that while we can disagree on somethings we have a huge patch of common ground on which to gather — that we are all beloved, forgiven children of God.

In Christ's service with you,
Sr. Becky



Upcoming Pastoral Care Needs: Sr. Becky will be traveling to Germany from October 20 — November 4th. Contact Holmen Lutheran at 608-406-7592.

God's Work Our Hands Sept 8th at Halfway Creek Park
LWR Box Car in La Crosse Sat, October 12 from 7 - 11 am

We surpassed our goal of 300 and had 325 person kits for Lutheran World Relief!! Thank you to everyone that helped make this event a success!! For your time, donation of items and baking/cooking skills. Without volunteers, it would be impossible to do God's work!!

These items will be delivered to the boxcar on the morning of October 12. If you would like to help load them into the truck on Saturday morning, call the office for details. More hands make light work!



Blessing of Backpacks and Briefcases

At the September 15th Worship service, blessed all backpacks and briefcases for this school year. May God shine on all students and teachers as they begin the school year for 2018-2019.

Holmen's Hope Thank You

Thank you for all the wonderful volunteers and North Country Buffet for helping make Tuesday, September 25th a huge success. Over 285 meals were served. Thanks to all of you for providing your time and talents.



This is such a worthy cause and vital part of the Holmen Community!

Thank You Congregation

The Vision Board would like to thank those members that have reached out to us in recent weeks. We appreciate the opportunity to engage in dialogue and clarification to fully understand the challenging position we faced as we examined our financial health and viability of offering a settled pastoral call at this time. We understand the news was met with many different emotions and we hope we all can continue to process those emotions through open and assertive communication channels. On October 15th, Sr. Becky will begin her role as part-time minister. Her time will consist of 6 mornings per week for worship preparations, worship leadership, and visitations (nursing homes, shut-ins, hospitalizations, etc.). As we move into this part-time transition, we would encourage members to engage with the Vision Board for questions and needs and to help preserve the boundaries of Sr. Becky's new part-time roles.

WORLD HUNGER TEAM NEWS

Because of you youth and adults had a chance to walk through one season with small farmers and to learn about the challenges – and opportunities – they face. **Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.**



Coulee Region Hunger 5K

October 13, Myrick Park, Registration starts at 12:00 PM. Monies raised for the food agencies in our area.

Psalm 133:1 says, "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity". So also is it good and pleasant when we walk together to fight hunger. Please join the HCLC hunger team in this 5k walk. We are hoping to raise at least \$300 of pledges as a group. If you would like to walk or pledge please contact the church office or Andrea (baxtera42@gmail.com) or use the link to register.

[https://
www.couleeregionhungerwalk.org/
information.html](https://www.couleeregionhungerwalk.org/information.html)

YOUTH CHRISTMAS CRAFT RAFFLE

Attention HCLC crafters. Would you like to help our youth put some extra money in their accounts for their summer trips and missions? If you are a crafter and have special hand-made items you would want to donate to the youth, we will be doing a craft auction like we have done the past couple years. It is fun to see our congregations handy work while helping our youth. We even had youth add some crafts last year. **If you aren't crafty and would like to put together a themed basket, that would be appreciated as well.**

If interested in donating handmade items please contact Mandi Horstman at 608-780-1653 (call or text) or adhorstman2000@gmail.com. We would like to have all donations by Sunday November 10th. The raffle will be held on Sunday, December 15th.



Update on Sister Becky's Candidacy

As you may remember, Sister Becky was approved for ordination to Word and Sacrament on August 15th. Since we are unable to extend a settled call to her, she entered the national assignment process for all approved candidates. On September 26 and 27 the decision making bodies met and Sr. Becky has been assigned to Central/Southern Illinois synod in Region 5. Next steps are for her to have conversations with that synod staff and to receive information from a congregation seeking a pastor. As we know from our experience calling a pastor, this process does not have a standard timeline. We continue to hold her in prayer as this process unfolds.

A Message from the Stewardship Team: BECAUSE OF YOU!!! THANK YOU!!!!!!

Because of you....

-We enjoyed worship on a Sunday at the Holmen bandshell with Holmen Lutheran and participated in making 325 health kits. Thank you!

-We came together on Rally Sunday and heard about all the ways time and talent are contributed by our ministry teams. Please consider where your time and talents could contribute to the congregation.

-We had a chance to walk through one season with small farmers and to learn about the challenges and opportunities they face. Thank you for your support of the World Hunger Campaign!

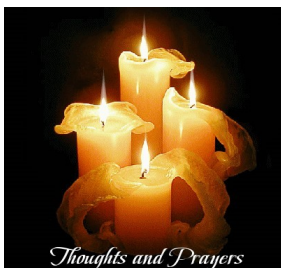
-We served at Holmen's Hope. Thank you!

-We began our fall schedule with Sunday School, Confirmation and two services. Thank you!



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13th

We will ask you to prayerfully consider how to grow in your financial commitment to HCLC and the local and global mission we serve. Bishop Arends will be here to share the message that day. We have only one services at 10:00 AM. Hang around afterwards to enjoy some treats and fellowship. Thanks for what you do for HCLC!!!



In Our Prayers : 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, Sarahann Jones, Cary Heyer, Eric Erdman, Thelma Severson, Jean Schwanebeck

COMMUNITY EVENTS—ALL ARE WELCOME

Synod W-ELCA Fall Renewal Theme: Children of the Heavenly Father

Date: Saturday, October 26, 2019

Time: 8:30 am registration, 9:00 am opening devotions 2:00 pm Closing

Location: Bethel Lutheran Church, , 1931 Loomis St., La Crosse, WI

Cost: 15:00/person contact Mona Van Riper at 608-526-2284 by October 14

Day includes guest speaker, officer break-outs, conference break-outs, lunch and great fellowship. All are welcome!!

NEW MINISTRY TEAM OPPORTUNITY

Create, Design, Organize, Plan

If these words bring you happiness and excitement then this message is for you.

We are looking to form a new team to examine our space and create plans that make our environment the most efficient and welcoming while accentuating the beauty. Whether you are about the small, fine details or the bigger picture... We want you!! If you would like to join please email or call/text Jen Strangstalien at jenstrangstalien@gmail.com or 608-386-4993.

FINANCE Q & A UPDATE—SEPTEMBER 15th

Merchants Bank reconfigured our monthly loan payment based upon our current principle balance which changes our monthly loan payment from \$3,059.81 to \$2,674.00. This is a reduction of 385.81.

Our Finance Team is looking for individuals who have an interest and/or experience to assist with some crucial projects that are listed below. Please contact Jodi Eide at 608-399-5051 to help out.

Debt Reduction Campaign

Raise the Roof Campaign

2019 Audit of Financials – We need a total of 4 people 2 of which need experience in finance.

Board of Trustees for the Thrivent Fund

Counters for the 3rd and 4th Sunday of the month

The Vision Board approved the transfer of money from our Thrivent fund to pay the July, August and September Portico payments to get caught up. We now owe a total of \$13,808.97 to repay our Thrivent Fund.

SERVING AND WORSHIP

		SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	OFFERING COUNTERS
OCT 6	8:00	Mike Martin	Carrie Payne Nicole Stumlin	Rhonda Britton Sonja Nelson
	10:30	Morgan Jostad		
OCT 13	ONE SERVICE TODAY		Karla Johnson Diane Jostad	Bette Pedretti Susan Jostad
	10:00	Kermit Jostad		
OCT 20	8:00	Archie Achterkirch	Nancy Holley Diane Jostad	Jodi Eide Volunteer Needed
	10:30	Volunteer Needed		
OCT 27	8:00	Dave Bringe	Bette Pedretti Barb Hale	Volunteers Needed
	10:30	Dave Chase		

Volunteer to help at Worship

For the month of October 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!

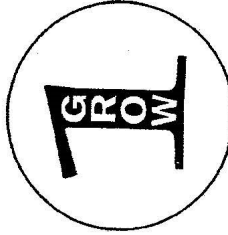
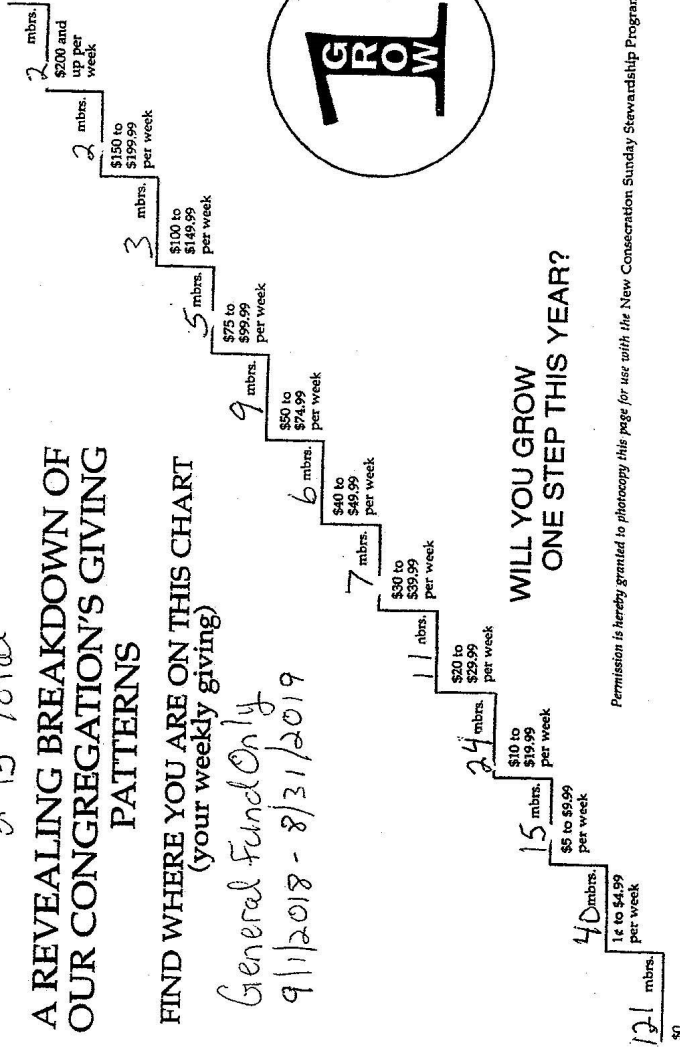
October 2019													
October 2019							November 2019						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
							3	4	5	6	7	8	9
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
27	28	29	30	31									
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY							
Sep 29	30	Oct 1	2	3	4	5							
		6:30pm Trunk or Treat Meeting	6:00pm Confirmation Begins 6:30pm Worship Team Rehearsal										
6	7	8	9	10	11	12							
8:00am Worship 9:15am Sunday School, Pumpkins and Bibles 10:30am Worship, Children singing & helping at service			6:00pm Confirmation 6:30pm Worship Team Rehearsal	6:00pm Vision Board		7:00am Load Boxes for LWR Box Cal by 11:00 AM							
13	14	15	16	17	18	19							
9:15am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	6:00pm Stewardship Meeting		6:00pm Confirmation 6:30pm Worship Team Rehearsal	9:30am Women's Bible Study									
20	21	22	23	24	25	26							
							St. Becky on Study Leave/Germany						
							Fall Theological Meeting for North Conference						
							La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA Fall Renewal (Bethel Lutheran, La Crosse)						
27	28	29	30	31	Nov 1	2							
							St. Becky on Study Leave/Germany						
							5:00pm Holmen's Hope monthly dinner at American Legion 6:30pm FAITH+FULL+LIFE Living Faith Fully ~ Women's Ministry (Holmeal)						
							6:00pm Confirmation 6:30pm Worship Team Rehearsal						
							1 Halloween						

245 Total

A REVEALING BREAKDOWN OF OUR CONGREGATION'S GIVING PATTERNS

FIND WHERE YOU ARE ON THIS CHART
(your weekly giving)

General Fund Only
9/1/2018 - 8/31/2019



WILL YOU GROW
ONE STEP THIS YEAR?

Permission is hereby granted to photocopy this page for use with the New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

If your birthday is missing, please notify the office.

2	9	16	23
Steven Johnson	William Achterkirch	Micah Hill	Mark Craig
Jerome Tiffany	Kendra Bringe	Luke Tiffany	24
3	10	Sunny Wilson	Aubrey Henthorn
Leanne Erdman	Daniel Ulrich	17	Rubianne Kinsman
4	11	Joshua Johnson	25
Ronald Johnson	Ben Fiers	Brooke Nelson	Kyle Dohlby
5	Jimmie Ann Gates	Mitchell Noel	Jennifer Strangstalien
Christopher Baxter	Keith Krause	18	
6	Lucas Oines	Mary Crocker	26
Jason Pralle	Aiztdon Stumlin	Brianna Howe	David Betsinger
7	12	19	Isabella Medd-Beville
Richard Berger	Kate Pederson	Max Hammond	28
8	13	Mary Thompson	Lori Anderson
Archie Achterkirch	Shelly Vander Linden	20	29
Susan Daily	14	Julie Hemp	Nicole Stumlin
Joseph Lepsch	Susan Kolbo	Mike Yeiter	30
Sr. Becky Swanson	15	21	Anne Fiers
Shawn Wegner	Bridget Gander	Adam Pederson	Jamie Lohrentz
			Mark Witte

Faith + Full + Life: Living Faith Fully!

(was known as Theology Uncorked)

**Tuesday, October 29 at 6:30 PM in the
Holmen Lutheran Church Lounge**

This is a shared ministry for women from Holmen area Lutheran churches including Holmen, Halfway Creek, Journey, and Mindoro-Lewis Valley Lutheran Churches. Each month, we will have conversation about real life and real faith. Invite your friends as we gather in the Holmen Lutheran Church Lounge.

VISION BOARD MEETING MINUTES—AUGUST 8, 2019

Present – Gaye Johnson, Ruth Scholze, Jodi Eide, Patti Happel, Mike Nedoba, Jen Strangstalien, & John Daily

Absent: Kathi Hagel, Mandi Horstman & Sister Becky Swanson

Called to order at 6:05 pm by Jen Strangstalien

Reflection on chapter 6 of the book *Agile Church* – discussion on getting back to being an innovated church, we need to listen for God to help guide us forward. Motion made and second (Gaye Johnson & Mike Nedoba) to approve the agenda, carried

One correction with the July 11 minutes, complete the final statement:

“Motion made by John Daily to authorize the treasurer to use the undesignated memorials and Thrivent Funds to pay the immediate financial commitments. Second by Mandi Horstman. Carried by an email vote.”

Motion made and second (John Daily & Patti Happel) to approve the July 11, 2019 minutes with the one correction. Carried

Motion made and second (John Daily & Patti Happel) to approve the July 17, 2019 minutes. Carried

Motion made and second (Patti Happel & Mike Nedoba) to receive the ministry report from Sister Becky, carried.

Financial report presented by Jodi Eide, we continue to limp along, we need to pay the July Portico for Sister Becky and FICA with payroll will be coming this next week. Motion made and second (John Daily & Mike Nedoba) to accept the financial report as presented. Carried

Financial Planning – follow-up meeting with Merchants bank:

Gina Miller shared with us that we are not able to refinance the loan. The interest rate would be higher so it would not benefit the Church. Her recommendation is to refigure the loan payments based upon the current loan balance but keep the amortization the same. We can expect the monthly payment to be lowered by about \$300.00. This will ensure no additional costs to the Church and the loan will still mature in February 2021. There is no pre-payment penalty on the loan with Merchants Bank so if you are able to find favorable financing with either Mission Investment or Thrivent the Church will not be penalized. As you hear back from Mission and Thrivent she is happy to review their proposals and identify any potential pros and cons. Motion made and second (John Daily & Patti Happel) to authorize the treasurer to move forward to work with Merchants Bank to reconfigure the loan based on the existing principle

balance for the purpose of lowering the monthly mortgage payment, and to investigate what Mission Investment & Thrivent might be able to offer for financing. Carried

The Vision Board extends a huge thank you to everyone who stepped up to support the finances of the church as we move forward.

Discussion on moving forward with Sister Becky or to negotiate a new contract at this time. The Vision Board will meet with Bishop Jim Arends Monday night at 6:30 pm. The board will meet following this meeting for further action.

Fundraising opportunities continue as we participate in the Kornfest weekend celebration. Thanks to everyone who supported the Trempealeau County Fair. Continue to work with the Teams as we move forward with the fall schedule.

Consider having a booth at the National Night Out event in 2020.

VBS was a great success with good attendance and fun for all who participated.

Fall Kick-off event will be Sunday, September 15 with worship at 9:00 am followed by a World Hunger Learning event for all ages. The team ministries will be shared as well maybe during the worship time and then table displays for more info. No potluck at this time but simple refreshments will be offered.

Stewardship committee has met and will meet again October 14, they are planning to have pledge cards ready for the service on October 13 where Bishop Jim Arends will also preach. Continue to encourage electronic giving.

Designated gift for worship team was discussed, motion made and second (Mike Nedoba & Patti Happel) to accept the gift of \$2,000 to worship team to replace microphones. Carried

Closing prayer and adjourn 8:40 pm

Ruth Scholze, Acting Secretary



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

Sunday Worship 8:00 am & 10:30 am
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 at one of the following number:

Cell: 612-327-5087

Direct Church Line: 608-399-3339

Office: 608-526-3701

Holmen Lutheran at :

Cell: 608-406-7592 Oct 20—Nov 4

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

