



## CURRENTS

DECEMBER, 2020

### *Reaching Out to Share Christ with All*



#### Gifts for the Congregation

Members of Halfway Creek Lutheran Church as COVID-19 continues to pose a threat to our families and communities, Hope for Christmas can be delivered straight to your home if you wish.

The Vision Board and Ruth Scholze would like to offer you a gift in the form of a short devotional, prayers, and individual wrapped packages of wafer/juice for Holy Communion. The packages will be blessed by Pastor Matt Toso. Ruth will be willing to visit face-to-face wearing a mask or leave the gift on your doorstep. Please contact Rose at the church if interested by December 7<sup>th</sup> and Ruth will follow-up with a time before Christmas.

Phillips Brooks captured the heart of Christmas with one line in the carol he wrote, ***O Little Town of Bethlehem***. That line summarizes what Christmas means to us: "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight." In the little town of Bethlehem, God met the hopes of all humanity by birth of His Son, Jesus.

Hope is a powerful force in our lives and Christmas brings hope. Christmas is also for those who have been longing for a Savior. The only hope is for God to come, we have been waiting for God to show up. He has!

God sent Christ at Christmas. In turn, Christ sends us into the world to be his hands and feet, head and heart. The Vision Board sends you greetings of peace, love, and hope for Christmas and 2021.

For communion visit or if you would like to pick-up communion, contact Rose at [assistant@halfwaycreek.org](mailto:assistant@halfwaycreek.org) Phone 608-526-3701



## STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Advent is a time when we prepare our hearts and souls for the coming birth of Christ. It is a time of expectation, of watchfulness, and a time of self-examination. We examine our stewardship of time, abilities, and money and consider how we are using all three for the proclaiming of God's kingdom. Thank you for your generous offering of time and talents to HCLC, the community and the world. It all goes toward building God's kingdom.

### TIME and ABILITIES

-Spend time in worship and prayer each week - Check out the weekly HCLC Facebook message!

-Interested in helping with a reading, a message for the congregation or sharing some of your musical talent at one of the weekly services, please contact Laurie Noelke at [laurie.noelke@halfwaycreek.org](mailto:laurie.noelke@halfwaycreek.org) or 608-317-2410.

-The Property Team is looking for new members - Contact Patti Happel at 608-317-9525 or email [patiszoo@yahoo.com](mailto:patiszoo@yahoo.com).

-Consider nominating yourself or someone else for the Vision Board. Send your nominations to the church office or email [assistant@halfwaycreek.org](mailto:assistant@halfwaycreek.org)

-The list of opportunities in the community are endless. My favorites are bell ringing for the Salvation Army, donating to food baskets or giving to the local Caring Tree.

### TAKE TIME TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF and OTHERS

-Get a flu shot!

-Wear a mask and socially distance if you have to go out.

-Wash your hands and/or keep hand sanitizer with you!

-Stay home! I know that it is getting more and more difficult, but the risk is just too high right now.

-Send a note or call a member of the congregation that you have been thinking about. We are a welcoming congregation. It is hard not to be together.

*continued on page 3*

*Stewardship Message continuation from page 2*

## TALENTS

**-Mission Giving** to World Hunger Fund - There won't be a tree to take ornaments off this year, so consider going to the good [gifts.ELCA.org](https://www.gifts.ELCA.org) and purchase an animal for someone.

**-Mission Giving** to Lutheran World Relief - They was one of the first organizations to lend support to Central America during the recent hurricanes. Right now the 2020 Christmas Matching Gift Challenge is going on. Every \$ you donate will be matched, [donate.lwr.org](https://donate.lwr.org)

-A Mission Gift to the **ELCA La Crosse Area Synod** supports a number of local and global ministries.

**Indirect GIVING** that makes a difference - A percentage of your purchase can go to HCLC.

-Use Shop with Script gift cards, e-cards or reloadable cards, use the [ShopWithScript.com](https://ShopWithScript.com) website or request a form from the church office.

-Use [smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) for all of your Amazon shopping. You can use an Amazon script e-card to make your purchase.

## Regular Giving

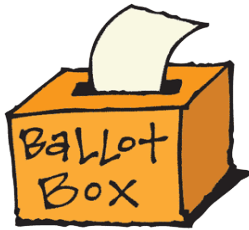
-Continue to mail or drop off your offering envelopes.

-Use **Simply Giving** - Contact the church office or email [assistant@halfwaycreek.org](mailto:assistant@halfwaycreek.org) for a form to start or adjust your regular gift.

-Use the **GiftPlus+** app. Designate HCLC for your gift. You can use this for regular giving or a one time gift.

***The Vision Board and Stewardship team would like to thank you for supporting Halfway Creek, our community and the world. Because of you... HCLC is a great place even though we can't physically be together in worship and fellowship.***





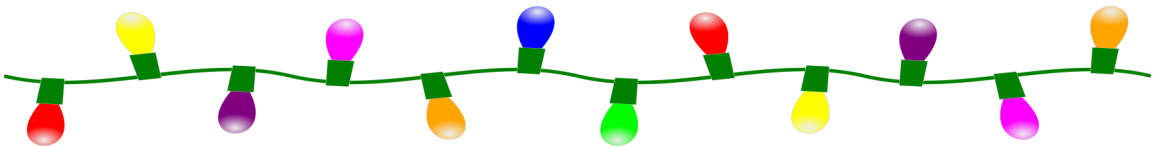
## **VOTE 2021 FOR THE BELOW TWO COMMITTEES**

### **VISION BOARD**

We invite all voting members to begin praying now for insight. Ask God to help you identify a person(s) that you can nominate to the Vision Board that has the gifts, skills and vision to be one of the spiritual leaders for one to four year term.

Looking for people that would like take an active interest in the future of the congregation and moving Halfway Creek Lutheran Church forward.

Mail in ballot or e-mail your nominations to the church office by December 4, 2020  
[assistant@halfwaycreek.org](mailto:assistant@halfwaycreek.org)



## **CARING TREE 2020**



This year it decided to provide gift cards: Goal is to provide each child with two \$25 gifts (one card for clothing and one for a fun item).

Distribution of gift cards will be December 5th - allows more time for parents to shop for their children.

- Checks can be made out to *Holmen Lutheran Church* (designate for Caring Tree).
- Mail donations to Holmen Lutheran Church, 228 Morris St., clearly noting "Caring Tree" on or inside envelope.
- Drop off in the secure lock box, located outside the Church Street lobby entrance.

Vision Board Nomination Form  
Halfway Creek Lutheran Church ELCA  
DUE DECEMBER 4, 2020

**We invite all voting members to begin praying now** for insight. Ask God to help you identify a person(s) that you can nominate to the Vision Board that has the gifts, skills and vision to be one of the spiritual leaders for one to four year term. Pray that this person(s) might be given wisdom to know whether or not this is the right time for them to serve as a Vision Board member.

Looking for people that would like take an active interest in the future of the congregation and moving Halfway Creek Lutheran Church forward.

I nominate: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please mail or e-mail your nomination form to the church office; W6016 County Rd W, Holmen, WI 54636 by December 4, 2020. [assistant@halfwaycreek.org](mailto:assistant@halfwaycreek.org)

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

*If your birthday is missing, please notify the office.*

<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>22</b>
Justin Happel	Mason Dokkebaken	Mark Thompson	Alayna Ruhbusch
<b>2</b>	Trent Gander	<b>16</b>	<b>23</b>
Maddy Arendt	<b>9</b>	Cameron Hill	David Erdman
Karsen Nelson	Troy Fiers	<b>17</b>	Benjamin Heiser
<b>3</b>	Jon Halverson	Lindsay Tuquero	<b>24</b>
Matthew Payne	Megan Sacia	<b>18</b>	Rebecca Moss
<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	Daniel Daily	<b>27</b>
Alice Jackson	Patricia Brandau	Michelle Olson	Emily Arnold
<b>5</b>	Brooklyn Cook	<b>19</b>	<b>28</b>
Rita Johnson	<b>11</b>	Owen Bringe	Otillia Kinsman
Cameron Legrave	Rick Shisler	<b>20</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>6</b>	Kathryn Yahnke	Chad Brandau	Elsie Barbour
Laura Oines	<b>12</b>	Shannon Jandt	<b>31</b>
<b>7</b>	Kelly Hanson	<b>21</b>	Jacob Thornton
Jodi Eide	<b>14</b>	Kelly Anderson	
Adam Thoma	James Bringe		



*We pray for Roy Ackermann, Katie Wier, Phoebe Kitzke, Ayla Humphrey, Ted Latham, Gayle Kuespert, Mark Sanders, Beulah Sanders, Betty Schmidt, Cary Heyer, Eric Erdman, Dawson Reed, Jenny Lee, Mary Dokkebaken, Karla Johnson*

**Office Hours for Christmas Week, December 21-25**

Hours on Monday 7:00-5:00; Tuesday 7:00-1:00; Thursday, Christmas Eve -7:00-11:00; Friday Christmas Day closed



## Confirmation Update

2020 has proved to be a year of adjustments and compromises. This held true when we started to plan how to hold confirmation classes that would be meaningful and safe. In October we began meeting on Wednesday nights in small groups with the 6th and 7th graders attending one week and the 8th graders attending the next week.

This alternate schedule has worked well and allows us to stay socially distanced while wearing masks (things that have become the "new normal" part of life). This year we are focusing on the small catechism and have been learning about the Apostles Creed. If you know a confirmation student ask them what the creed means or how many articles are in the Apostles Creed. They *\*should\** know the answers. ;)

Merry Christmas,  
Jen Strangstalien



### **Your giving helps with our mission-*Reaching Out to Share Christ with All***

<b>October</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Y-T-D Budget</b>	<b>Y-T-D Actual</b>
Expense	15,646	19,569	156,716	120,580
General Fund	16,110	16,740	161,107	154,029
Debt Reduction		820		4,767

## 2020 FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

All contributions must be received in the office by December 31, 2020 by 12:00 noon in order for them to be included in your 2020 financial contribution statement.

## **VISION BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

### **OCTOBER 15, 2020**

In attendance: Patti Happel, Mike Nedoba, Kathi Hagel, Ruth Scholze, John Daily, Jessica Cook

Absent: Gaye Johnson, Mike Martin

Guests in attendance: Jodi Anderson, Amy Noel

Call to order- 6:00 PM by Patti Happel

Devotion/Reflection/Prayer- Ruth S

Approval of Agenda- A motion was made to approve the agenda by John D and second by Ruth S. Motion passed.

Approval of September Minutes- A motion was made to approve the September minutes by Kathi H and the second by Mike Nedoba, motion passed.

Financial Report- Jodi A-

September financial-

New Credit Card-If we spend \$3000 in the first month we get a \$500 Credit with the Chase Credit Card

The \$3050 Under building repairs- is money donated for the roof. The roof is under Church Property Repair \$10,603.41 (not budgeted); Parsonage Maintenance \$3095-air conditioning

September Revenue: \$13,182.85

YTD Revenue: \$137,289.06

September Expenditures: \$21,707.49

YTD Expenditures: \$100,935.67

John D made the motion to approve the financial report and Kathi H made the second, motion passed.

Script cards- Rose W and Jodi A will take over the script cards and put out the order form.

Building loan will mature in February 2021

Pastor Health Insurance- Portico- Open Enrollment- Silver Package has a HSA. Need to have an discussion by 10/26- Jodi A will get premium amounts so we can make a decision. Email Received from Jodi A that the insurance does not need to be decided on until we hire a pastor.

2021 Budget- Jodi A will give us first 10 months of 2020 and the last 2 months of 2019. Jodi A will send Mandi a spreadsheet . Budget meeting 9am December 5<sup>th</sup>.



Vision Board Nominations- tabled will discuss in November

Quarterly statements- Do we want to add a note? Thank you, Roof Donations.

### Old Business

#### Call Committee Update

Profile Presentation- Amy Noel- Our summer survey got very good responses, and conversations with the people that wanted to meet with the Call Committee. Jessica C made a motion to approve the profile as present by Amy Noel on behalf of the call committee. Ruth S made the second and the motion passed.

Pastor Salary Discussion- The salary on the high side of a 9 year pastor. Jessica C Motioned to approve the salary suggestion and John D made the second. Motion Passed.

COVID/Re-Opening Discussion- Schools are opening up in Holmen. Numbers are still high.

Roof Fundraising- Candy Sales- need a 2 week turn around. Pick up or delivery. October 25.

SIM update- John D did talk with them, but we need to see if we need to have them service the sound system. Piano need to be tuned, we usually do that in November.

Sunday School/Confirmation Update- Ruth motioned to accept the confirmation students. Kathi second. Ruth will talk to Diane J. about robes and flowers. Mandi will take confirmand pictures. Patti will ask Jen about gifts. Mike N will check in with Carrie P.

Compensation for Pastor Ralph- Discussion on how to compensate. \$50 a sermon a sermon for a pastor doing a online sermon. John D made the motion and Jess C made the second- Mandi abstained- Motion passed.

### New Business

Thanksgiving /Christmas – closed at least through November.

Closing Prayer- Lord's Prayer

Adjournment 8:12

Thursday November 12<sup>th</sup> 2020 6PM- Regular Vision Board Meeting



**Mark your calendars: HCLC Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 7, 2021. Further information will be forthcoming.**



HOLMEN AREA ROTARY CLUB  
*presents*

# Holidays IN THE PARK

CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING CONTEST

*categories include Business, Organization, and Family trees*

DECEMBER 4TH-31ST

VOTING HOURS + SPECIAL EVENTS  
4PM-9PM ON :



DEC  
4TH & 5TH



DEC  
11TH & 12TH



DEC  
18TH & 19TH

FOR SPONSORSHIP  
INFORMATION AND  
MORE DETAILS, VISIT  
OUR WEBSITE + FIND  
US ON FACEBOOK

HOLMENAREAROTARY.ORG



HALFWAY CREEK PARK

*All proceeds benefit Holmen Boys and Girls Club*



**Rotary**  
Holmen Area Rotary Club

December 2020													
December 2020													
January 2021													
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	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	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 29	30	Dec 1	2 6:00pm Confirmation Class for 8th Grade	3	4	5 9:00am HCLC Vision Board 2021 Budget Meeting							
6 9:00am Worship Cancelled due to Covid-19	7	8	9 6:00pm Confirmation Class for 6th & 7th Grades	10 6:00pm Vision Board	11	12							
13 9:00am Worship Cancelled due to Covid-19 9:15am Finance Q & A Meeting - cancelled due to Covid-19	14	15	16 6:00pm Confirmation Class for 8th Grade	17	18	19							
20 9:00am Worship Cancelled due to Covid-19 5:00pm Living Hope Supper in Ettrick	21 Currents Deadline	22	23 No Confirmation Class	24 4:00pm Christmas Eve Worship - cancelled due to Covid-19 9:00pm Christmas Eve Worship - cancelled due to Covid-19	25 Christmas 9:00am Worship - cancelled due to Covid-19	26							
27 9:00am Worship Cancelled due to Covid-19	28	29 5:00pm Holmer's Hope monthly dinner at American Legion	30 No Confirmation Class	31	Jan 1, 21	2							

Halfway Creek Lutheran Church  
608-526-3701  
[www.halfwaycreek.org](http://www.halfwaycreek.org)

## **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).

## **PASTORAL CARE**

If the need arises for Pastoral Care, please contact Holmen Lutheran Church at 608-406-7592 .

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

