



# CURRENTS

MAY 2021

## Meet Pastor Chris Sesvold



Greetings in the name of Christ!

It is my pleasure, as I look forward to joining you as pastor and walking with you in living out God's mission in Holmen, to introduce myself and my family by way of this biographical letter.

I've been a pastor since 2017—I like to call it the 500<sup>th</sup> year of the Reformation, that seems to give it an air of significance. My wife and I both graduated from Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa that year. With us at the time was our daughter Anika, who came to many classes with us her first year (though I don't suppose she retained much of the theology), and our dog Raji (he's a chihuahua/papillon mix). After we were called to our first congregations and serving for a while, we had our set of twins, Soren and Gretchen, about 9 months before this pandemic began changing the world.

My wife, Luci, and I have been married since 2010. We met at Luther Park Bible Camp a few years before that, where we were on staff together. Our current hobbies include taking care of kids and cuddling the dog. But once upon a time we enjoyed other things as well—theatre and coffee shops are ones we especially like together. Luci also enjoys crafting and putting together puzzles. I play music and enjoy tinkering with technology.

Anika will be entering second grade. She is really into dance, particularly ballet, and was determined to be a competitive swimmer before the pandemic took out the lessons this past year. She would love to get into that again.

*Continue on page 2*

*Continued from front page Meet Pastor Chris Sesvold*

As a pastor I am really looking forward to getting to know you and to becoming reacquainted with Holmen. I love to dream and experiment with ministry. I believe that we learn a lot when we try things—and not just when they are successful. My favorite small group activities have been engaging Bible studies where lots of questions are asked. I enjoy finding time for intentional conversations and look for opportunities to wrestle with tough issues from a faith perspective and in Christian community.

Having grown up in Holmen (I graduated HHS class of 2006), I am excited to be back close to family. Holmen has grown and changed so much since I've been away (again, since about 2006),

I am eager to experience it in a new way and to see what God is up to among all the people forming amazing new community. I like to think that where people are coming together, God is especially active. It is the fun of the church to figure out how to fit into that activity in a positive way.

I am thrilled to be able to begin with you in May, even if most of what we do together is still distanced and virtual. I hope many of you will find time to call or meet by some video conference medium. In early June I will be able to be more present, by also being in the office, though I hope that never becomes a restriction to engaging in the wider community.

Finally, I want to say again how excited I am to be with you as pastor, to learn all your passions and struggles, to hear what God is up to in your lives, and to find the amazing things God is calling us to in our community.

Until then,

God bless you and Christ's peace be upon you!

*-Pastor Chris*



**Virtual and in person worship starting in May. More information to come.**

# Good Bye Halfway Creek

In December of 2019 I started working at Halfway Creek as the Director of Music Ministries. At that time, I did not know this was going to be such a meaningful journey for me. I was a lifetime member of my church on the northside of La Crosse. I was not sure how to become part of another congregation. Fortunately for me, I found a church that not only was welcoming but made me feel like family! I have been blessed to be a part of this congregation and to call so many people my new friends and family.

As you may know, my family has made a decision to move to Florida this summer. We have been talking about moving somewhere warmer for over 20 years, but it never worked out. This time, the timing seems to have worked out. We have never lived further than West Salem from La Crosse, so this will be a big change for us.

I would like to thank the congregation of Halfway Creek Lutheran church for welcoming me to your church family. I have loved this position and all the people I got to know during my time there. You will always be in my continued prayers.

Many blessings to you all.

Laurie Noelke

*We wish Laurie and her family the very  
best on their new adventure!*

**CONFIRMATION WILL BE  
SCHEDULED WHEN PASTOR CHRIS  
ARRIVES. MORE INFORMATION  
WILL BE FORTHCOMING.**



# welcome

*Halfway Creek Lutheran Church would like to welcome*

*Ron & Kathy Christensen as new members.*



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

1 Abigail Fredrickson Lise Graham	6 Benjamin Johnson	11 Mary Severson	20 Zachary Arendt
2 Keena Noth Melissa Strauss	8 Samantha Hammond Seth Heiser Megan Jostad-Myhre Jordan Ouellette	13 Jenny Lee	Dylan Severson
3 Tina Mueller	9 Evlyn Clark	14 Sayde Nelson	24 Barbara Hale James Noel
4 Laura Arnold Nancy Holley	10 Samantha Bartnik Lauren Bringe Patricia Krause Betty Schmidt	15 Paul Eide Kermit Jostad	25 Priscilla Achterkirch Jon Strangstalien Olivia Temp
5 Paul Anderson Lyle Gordon Joseph Noth		16 William Achterkirch	27 Susan Anderson Jeffery Severson
		17 Roger Casberg Nicole Plomedahl	31 Pamela Gran
		19 Susan Chase	

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PROPERTY TEAM**

Vision Board looking for people to be on the Property Team due to the retirement of people on the team. Contact Patti Happel at 608-317-9525 or email [patiszoo@yahoo.com](mailto:patiszoo@yahoo.com) for further information.

## HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE GRADUATES RECOGNITION



If your child will be graduating this year from either high school or college, please email their name to [assistant@halfwaycreek.org](mailto:assistant@halfwaycreek.org) so that they can be recognized in the publications.

### OUTDOOR WORSHIP AREA- NEEDS YOUR HELP

On Saturday, May 1, need volunteers to help clean up outdoor worship area. Will start at 9:00 AM, any amount of your time would be appreciated.

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, Thelma Severson, Alice Fonfara



Thank you to all the gardeners that helped with spring clean up around the church. Everything looks fantastic and ready for summer!

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

<b>March</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Y-T-D Budget</b>	<b>Y-T-D Actual</b>
Expense	15,853	9,303	47,562	27,334
Revenue	15,834	12,384	47,502	32,762
Debt Reduction		699		1,408

HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH VISION BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

March 11, 2021

6:00 PM

MEMBERS: Patti Happel, Mike Martin, Mike Nedoba, Gaye Johnson, Jessica Cook, Carolyn Bjerke, Diane Jostad

**ITEM:**

Call to Order @ 6:04pm

Devotion/Reflection/Prayer – *Gaye Johnson*

Approval of Agenda - Mike Martin made a motion to approve the agenda, Gaye Johnson seconded the motion, Motion passed

Approval of February minutes - *Mike Nedoba made a motion to approve* the February minutes, Gaye Johnson Seconded the motion, Motion passed  
Financial Report - Carolyn Bjerke made a motion to approve the Financial report, Mike Nedoba second the motion, Motion passed.

\*Building loan update - Current Loan APR = 4.25%, New Loan APR = 4.09%

**CALL COMMITTEE PRESENTATION @ 6.30**

Amy Noel spoke about their process for the call committee, and spoke about the Pastor candidate they have found for our church. Lynn Wagner, Nicole (last name unknown) Pastor Libby were present to talk about the candidate.  
Carolyn Bjerke made a motion to move forward with pastoral candidate as presented to the vision board, Mike Nedoba seconded the motion, Motion passed

Set a congregational meeting for March 28th at 12:00pm.

**OLD BUSINESS**

SIMS - Continue to investigate

Opening / Outdoor Easter Service/ Egg Hunt - *easter books sent to children, egg hunt planned for after Easter service.*

Synod Assembly – Amy Noel & Andrea Baxter

## NEW BUSINESS

Committee Liaisons - *Tabled*

Confirmation - *April 18 with it possibly moved to another day*

Money for Quilters - supplies - *Table*

Designated funds – Pastoral Sabbatical Fund transfer

Upcoming Weddings (4) - *Tabled*

One wants to bring in their own officiant

Rich wants to raise his fee for cleaning - (Current \$125.00) Gaye made a motion to increase event cleaning to \$175.00 for members and \$200.00 Non-members, Mike Nedoba seconded the motion, Motion Passed

Music Director - *Tabled* Other concerns or topics

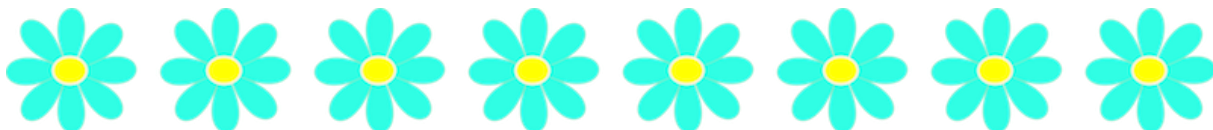
Jess Cook found out that the women's bathroom under the sanctuary can be removed and made into storage, with the men's bathroom changing to a family bathroom.

Closing Prayer Adjournment @ 7:45pm

Next meeting(s):

Thursday April 8, 2021 6pm – Regular Vision Board Meeting

Per Email on March 23, Mike Nedoba made a motion to approve the church windows to be cleaned for \$280.00, Mike Martin seconded the motion, Motion passed. (Several VB members said they would contribute to the expense)



# May 2021

May 2021							June 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
30	31												

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Apr 25	26	27	28	29	30	May 1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
					7:00pm Anderson Wedding Rehearsal	Anderson Wedding
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Mother's Day				6:00pm Vision Board		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
5:00pm Living Hope Supper in Ettrick	Current's Deadline					
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		5:00pm Holmen's Hope monthly dinner at American Legion				
30	31	Jun 1	2	3	4	5
	Memorial Day					



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 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](mailto:assistant@halfwaycreek.org).

### **PASTORAL CARE**

If the need arises for Pastoral Care, please contact Holmen Lutheran Church at 608-406-7592 or Pastor Kathy Ingbritsen 608-606-2903.

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

