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Halfway Creek

LUTHERAN CHURCH

CURRENTS

OCTOBER 2021

Reach Out , Share Christ with All

From Pastor Chris

October is going to bring a whole lotta fun to HCLC!

It is exciting to continually be seeing new faces (to me, anyway) coming to worship, Sunday School is starting up, and confirmation, too! We have a sheep flocking fundraiser for Holmen's Hope, and Trunk-or-Treating along with helping the "Trick-or-Treat so Others Can Eat" program to look forward to later this month. This month we celebrate 165 years as a congregation! There are so many ways to engage as we are reigniting our energy for our mission Reach Out, Share Christ with All.

With everything geared up this fall, I'm still figuring out what are the best paths of communication and the right people to talk to at HCLC to get things moving. So if you have ideas or desire to help with anything that's coming up, please do not hesitate or wait for me to ask. I'm ready to meet you and get things going!

So whether you're aching for a Bible study, have a cool event in mind, want to read or usher in church, or just need a pastor to talk to, come see me, email me, text me, or call.

In Christ,

-Pastor Chris



Worship and Programming

As we begin a fall of worship and programing, it is important to remember why we gather as we do. Our mission is to Reach Out and Share Christ With All. In our worship, fellowship, and education that starts with creating environments where God's love for us and for our most vulnerable neighbors is strongly communicated. For us, that means creating spaces in worship and programing that are safe for anyone to gather when other spaces around us may not be so. It also means reaching out in new and creative ways to those who are not gathering in-person with us (and we will continue improving our methods of doing this).

As we continue forward together, let us do so with innovation, creativity, grace, and compassion. Let us be Christ's gathered and sent body at work in the world. Let us find creative ways of being church together safely, effectively, and for the sake of our neighbors.

Why we mask at HCLC:

We mask, first and foremost, to care for our neighbor.

Masking, along with physical distancing, is the easiest universal practice we can do to prevent unknowingly spreading disease to others. It also is moderately effective at protecting oneself. We long to gather normally with many people we haven't seen for a while as well as new people we've not yet met. But some of those people are not ready to take more risks among us than they already take each day as they go to work, play, or school. And others, while they are willing, we'd rather protect.

So to be as welcoming as possible, we continue our easiest and best practices for preventing disease by masking for indoor programming and worship. We also recommend masking even outdoors, if adequate distancing is not kept.

We mask to show love for our neighbor.

There are those among us who have not yet had a chance to be vaccinated, or cannot be vaccinated. And while we know that current mutations of the coro-

na virus has made spreading even by vaccinated people common, vaccination still greatly reduces severity of the disease. For those of us who are able to receive the vaccine, we continue to wear masks for the safety of those who cannot, and in solidarity with those who need either the protection or piece of mind of masks.

La Crosse county this fall has been maintaining its status of "high" community spread for coronavirus. While the summer gave us great hope that things were moving in the right direction, we must now remember that this is not over. That can be hard when the threat is one that is able to be invisible to many. It takes listening to others and discipline to remind ourselves why we do this, when we can't see with our own eyes what's going on.

What if I can't mask?

If you, in genuine faith and love, long to join the in-person activities of HCLC but are unable to wear a mask, please know first that you are loved and valued by this community. Talk to Pastor Chris, stay in contact and relationship with us. We are church together for the sake of the world, and we will learn how best to do that during times such as this.

Thank you all for your continued patience, prayers, diligence, and advocacy toward ending this pandemic. -Pastor Chris, and HCLC Vision Board.



Join us at Halfway Creek Lutheran Church

Community Trunk-or-Treat

Saturday, October 30

1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

Wear your costumes and join us for Trunk-or-Treating, games, and more.



Trick or Treat So Others Can Eat 2021

Hosted by Holmen Lutheran Church with volunteers throughout the area!



“Fill the Pumpkin” Drive-up Collection will take place Sunday, October 31, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Costumes and Car Decorations are encouraged! Holmen area volunteers will be distributing door hangers with information about this traditional event that fills local Food Pantries (Non-perishable food, paper products, and monetary donations welcome)! If you have an organization that would like to help distribute information, please email assistant@halfwaycreek.org.

Amazing Improvements

Lutefisk Shed

There is a small shed in the back of our church. It has had many uses since it was constructed. In 1974 Alfred and Margaret Bringe donated a tin shed for cooking lutefisk for HCLC annual Lutefisk & Lefsa Supper.



But even placing that shed down wind from the church could not keep the fish smell from coming into church. That shed was moved to the back of the building and a driveway was constructed around the church building. After Lester Nelson died in 1986, his wife, Francis Nelson, donated monies from her husband's estate for mate-

rials to construct a permanent building. This building has come to be called The Lutefisk Shed. Church members donated their labor.



The shed has had many uses, from making flatbread and lefsa for the annual HCLC Fall Bazaar to its use as a meeting place for HCLC Youth Group. The griddles and peeler have been sold. The Lutefisk shed has a new garage door and will soon have new siding and fascia boards. It is used for storage.



Whispering Pines

Whispering Pines HCLC Outdoor Worship Area was the brainchild of Russell Bringe and Pastor Carol Garmen in 1990.

In 1990 Chad Waldenberger helped with construction as his Eagle Scout project under Russ's supervision. In 1998 the benches were rebuilt by Ryan Beville under the direction of Ed Scholze as Ryan's Eagle Scout project. The Altar was built by Roy Ackermann and he dedicated the upper seating area to his wife Gloria. Gloria died in 2000.

In 2021 Mike Martin and Rich Pedetti have again completed new benches. Bette Pedetti, Nancy Holley, Diane Jostad and Alice Miller have helped revitalize Whispering Pines with new plants and landscaping.



Ramp

The handicap access ramp to the back of the church was added in 1989. Materials have been purchased to rebuild the railings on the ramp. No date is set for this project.



Road Sign

The road sign built by Orin Nyseth, Archie Achterkirch, Bill Achterskirch and Ed Scholze was dedicated August 28, 1988. The sign is in need of new plexiglass.



Parsonage

The parsonage received a new roof this summer. Our 35 year old house (built in 1986) received new flooring this year.



New Roof

Spring of 2021 gave the original church building a new roof.



HCLC Garden

Down the hill, behind the church is the HCLC garden. Vegetables grown are donated to the Salvation Army. It was started in 2011. Garden planners are Nancy Holley, Alice Miller and Archie Acherkirch. Susan Jostad and Diane Jostad and others assist with weeding.



Thank you to the Property Team for their dedication and hard work in making improvements to our church, buildings , land and worship spaces. Let us all enjoy them together. See you Sunday!



VISION BOARD MEETING MINUTES FROM AUGUST 12, 2021

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

Absent: Patti Happel, Mike Martin, Carolyn Bjerke

TIME: ITEM:

Call to Order @ 6:02pm

Approval of Agenda - *Jess C. made motion to approve agenda, Diane J seconded, the motion passed*

Approval of July minutes - *Diane J made a motion to approve July's minutes, Gaye J. Seconded, Motion passed*

Approval of email meeting minutes (Music Director) - *Was included in meeting minutes.*

Devotions - *presented by Gaye Johnson*

Pastor's Report - *1st nursing home rotation finished today (3 homes), VBS was good, reported back by the pastor children, lots of fun stuff coming up in September.*

Financial Report - *brief review up financial report, Jess C. made a motion to approve, Gaye J. seconded, motion passed*

6:50-7:20 Rally Sunday (Carrie Payne and Andrea Baxter) - ***GREAT ideas for Rally Sunday!! and Vision board members were asked to supply snacks for the Rally.***

NEW BUSINESS

Office Administrator Position - *Discussion on verbiage for the position, Rose's last day is Aug. 26.*

Worship (COVID mitigation plan) - *Pastor will keep with the plan in motion as of right now.*

Fall Programming (COVID mitigation plan)- *Pastor will keep with the plan in motion as of right now.*

OLD BUSINESS

Report- Projector/Smart TV (Mike Martin on Budget) - *Funds being provided by an anonymous congregational member. Carolyn B. to purchase TV with her discount from her place of employment.*

Reminder- 165th Anniversary of HCLC – 14th of October

Closing Prayer

Adjournment @ 7:36pm

Next meeting(s):
Thursday September 9, 2021 6pm – Regular Vision Board Meeting

Additional Business

8/24/21 Meeting to discuss worship/sunday school times for fall. - *Gaye made a motion to approve 9am-9:45am worship, 9:45-10:30am Sunday School, with re-evaluating in Dec. to decide if time changes are needed in January, sooner conversations as declared necessary. Mike M seconded, motion passed*

8/31/21 Email to move forward with the potential candidate for the office admin position - *all vision board members voted YES to move forward with Pastor Chris and Amy Noel's candidates.*

New to HCLC—PayPal

Giving has been made easier!! You may now donate to Halfway Creek Lutheran Church and it's ministries using PayPal! Read the QR code here, or find us on PayPal with the email address treasurer@halfwaycreek.org.



Thank you for your continued support and for making a difference!

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

August	Budget	Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Actual
Expense	15,829	14,170.27	126,739	109,422.64
General Fund	15,833	15,822.51	126,668	125,685.43
Debt Reduction		364 .00		3,410.00

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

If your birthday is missing, please notify the office.

2	9	Micah Hill	24
Steven Johnson	William Achterkirch	Luke Tiffany	Aubrey Henthorn
Jerry Tiffany II	Kendra Bringe	Sunny Wilson	Rubianne Kinsman
3	10	17	25
Leanne Erdman	Daniel Ulrich	Joshua Johnson	Jen Strangsalien
4	11	Brooke Nelson	26
Ronald Johnson	Ben Fiers	Mitchell Noel	Dave Betsinger
5	Jimmie Ann Gates	18	Isabella Medd Beville
Christopher Baxter	Keith Krause	Mary Crocker	28
6	Luke Oines	Brianna Howe	Lori Anderson
Jason Pralle	Aiztdon Stumlin	19	29
7	12	Max Hammond	Nicole Stumlin
Rich Berger	Kate Pederson	20	30
8	14	Julie Hemp	Annie Fiers
Archie Achterkirch	Sue Kolbo	Mike Yeiter	Jamie Lohrentz
Susan Daily	15	21	Mark Witte
Joe Lepsch	Bridget Gander	Adam Pederson	
Shawn Wegner	16	Shari Ireland	



Where Do Our Quilts Go?

Lutheran World Relief - Loading in La Crosse

Sat, October 9, 2021 - 7 - 11 am

The La Crosse area Lutheran World Relief In-Gathering has been scheduled. Loading has changed to Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church, 4141 Mormon Coulee Road, La Crosse. The trucks will be in the large church parking lot across Birch Street from the church. Note: The church will not be open. Contact Jim Balow for more information 608-788-8408.

SERVING AND WORSHIP

		SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	OFFERING COUNTERS
O C T 3	9	Mike Martin	Carrie Payne	Rhonda
	0	Morgan	Nicole	Britton
	0	Jostad	Stumlin	Sonja Nelson
O C T 1 0	9	Stan	Karla	Bette Pedretti
	0	Schwier	Johnson	Susan Jostad
	0	VOLUNTEER	Diane Jostad	
O C T 1 7	9	Archie	Nancy Holley	Jodi Eide
	0	Achterkirch	Diane Jostad	Mike Nedoba
	0	VOLUNTEER		
O C T 2 4	9	David	Barb Hale	VOLUNTEER
	0	Bringe	Bette	VOLUNTEER
	0	David Chase	Pedretti	
O C T 3 1	9	Archie	Diane Jostad	Mike Martin
	0	Achterkirch		John Daily
	0	Morgan Jostad		

Volunteer to help at Worship

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

- **Greeters**
- **Lectors**
- **Ushers**
- **Camera**

Use Sign-up Genius button on the web-site or E-News; call the office or email assistant@halfwaycreek.org .

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

Thank you to those that serve the church!



WE'VE BEEN FLOCKED!

Fundraiser for **HOLMEN'S HOPE**

Working with Holmen schools to identify students in need, Holmen's Hope prepares bags of non-perishable, microwaveable or ready to eat foods for the weekend for children with food insecurities. Bags include items like oatmeal, hot cocoa, tuna packs, crackers and cheese, chef Boyardee products, Dinty Moore stew, fruit cups, and granola bars. During the 2019-2020 school year, Holmen's Hope prepared 1690 bags of food. Halfway Creek Lutheran Church has supported Holmen's Hope for many years through collecting food items, sponsoring the monthly community meal, and with monetary donations.



FLOCK OF 10
\$15

FLOCK OF 20
\$25

FLOCK OF 40
\$35

**FLOCK YOUR FRIENDS. FLOCK YOUR NEIGHBORS. FLOCK YOUR FAMILY.
FLOCK THEM ALL.**

Surprise! **EWE'VE BEEN FLOCKED!**

We're raising funds for Holmen's Hope!

A fundraiser is being conducted by **HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH** and this flock of sheep is looking for property to graze. In case you didn't know, these particular sheep are very hungry and unless they are placed on someone else's lawn, they will eat all of our grass and run out of food. Removal of this flock of sheep should only be attempted by trained professionals. Fortunately, we have assembled a highly skilled flocking team to relocate these sheep. Please allow 1-3 days for the sheep to migrate to a new pasture.

To help keep this flock moving, please choose the next yard for these sheep to graze. Please fill out the information below and include cash or a check made out to Holmen's Hope and our flocking team will take care of the rest! If you prefer to pay with credit/debit card, please scan the QR code!

- ☐ **FLOCK OF 10** \$15
☐ **FLOCK OF 20** \$25
☐ **FLOCK OF 40** \$35



YOUR NAME _____

YOUR PHONE # & EMAIL _____

NAME & ADDRESS OF THE FLOCK'S NEXT DESTINATION (Holmen & surrounding area)

Do you have friends that are just as pesky as these sheep? Want to avoid having your yard flocked again? Fill out your information above & check the box below to purchase your flock insurance!

☐ **FLOCK INSURANCE \$40**

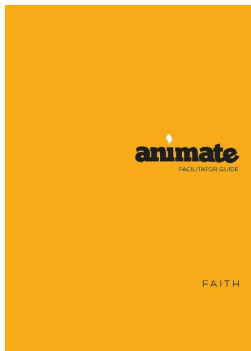
Our flocking teams are working hard to raise funds for Holmen's Hope! We understand you may not be able to donate at this time, but hope you have enjoyed this surprise flocking and appreciate the spirit and good will with which it was intended.

**FLOCK YOUR FRIENDS. FLOCK YOUR NEIGHBORS. FLOCK YOUR FAMILY.
FLOCK THEM ALL.**



We pray for Roy Ackermann, Katie Wier, Phoebe Kitzke, Ayla Humphrey, Ted Latham, Gayle Kuespert, Mark Sanders, Beulah Sanders, Cary Heyer, Eric Erdman, Dawson Reed, Jenny Lee, Mary Dokkebaken, Karla Johnson, Alice Fonfara, Ruth Scholze, Mildred Schwanebeck, Kathy Johnson, Mike Martin

Join us for Faith+Full+Life Fellowship



Faith+Full+Life is a monthly women's fellowship and faith gathering that is a shared ministry of Holmen, Journey, Halfway Creek, Mindoro-Lewis Valley Lutheran Churches.

Invite a friend and join us to discuss where faith and real life meet. This month, we continue in the **Animate: Faith** series and discuss the topic "Religion: Spirituality is Not Enough" with Pastor Lillian Daniel. We meet Tuesday October 26, 6:30PM, at Journey Lutheran Church.

Farewell for Pr. Libby Howe

Thu., October 7, 6:30 pm
First Lutheran Church, Onalaska

This will be an evening to share our appreciation for Pr. Libby and all the ministry she has done in our synod over the past 13+ years and to wish her the very best in her next call. There will be worship, a program and time of fellowship.

What's Happening in October

Join us for Worship each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. followed by
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

Worship will remain outdoors at Whispering Pines as weather permits.

Sunday, Oct. 3—7:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Mindoro Lutheran Church Pancake Breakfast and W-ELCA Raffles at the Lion's Shelter, Mindoro

Sunday, Oct. 3—Flocking Fundraiser for Holmen's Hope begins

Wednesday, Oct 6—6:00–7:15 p.m. Confirmation

Thursday, Oct. 7—6:30 p.m.—Farewell for Rev. Libby Howe; First Lutheran Church, Onalaska

Saturday, Oct. 9 – 7:00 a.m. – LWR Quilts & Kits Semi Trailor load, Good Shepherd

Thursday, Oct. 14—HCLC 165th Anniversary

Thursday, Oct. 14—6:00 p.m.—Vision Board Meeting

Saturday, Oct. 23— Wedding—Congratulations John and Megan (Erickson) Salo

Tuesday, Oct. 26 – 5:00 p.m. – Holmen's Hope Dinner at American Legion

Tuesday, Oct. 26 – 6:30 p.m. – Faith+Full+Life Women's Fellowship Journey Lutheran

Saturday, Oct. 30—1:00–3:00 p.m.—Trunk-or-Treat at HCLC parking lot

Sunday, October 31—2:30–4:30 p.m.—"Fill the Pumpkin" Drive-Up Collection at Holmen Luther-

Confirmation

Confirmation classes will meet each Wednesday at 6:00-7:15 p.m.

We are looking for confirmed members to help with classes and lead small group activities.

Email: assistant@halfwaycreek.org

Worship Team Rehearsals:

Tuesday, Oct. 5 at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 28 at 6:30 p.m.



Halfway Creek Lutheran Church
W6016 County Road W
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Halfway Creek Lutheran Church
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OFFICE HOURS

The office will be open Monday,
Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from
8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Leave
message on the answering machine or
e-mail at assistant@halfwaycreek.org.

PASTORAL CARE

If the need arises for Pastoral Care,
please contact Pastor Chris at 608-
526-3701 or 608-397-1578 .

SOCIAL MEDIA

Find us on Facebook, Instagram,
YouTube and our website

@halfwaycreekchurchholmen
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#reachoutsharechristwithall

