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608-526-3701

W6016 COUNTY RD. W
HOLMEN, WI 54636

Halfway Creek

LUTHERAN CHURCH

November 21, 2021 —9:00 a.m., Christ the King

Welcome to Worship

Today we celebrate Holy Communion. All are welcome at the Lord's table, whether you're visiting, or a member, whether it's your first time taking it or your thousandth, whether it's been a long time, or it's been just a while. You are welcome!

In response to our mission, continue to check on one another as you reach out and share Christ with all!

You are invited to speak the **bold** text. Please stand as you are able at parts marked *

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God created all things. **We celebrate all that God created when we gather.**

We gather at a time of growing darkness. **We gather with a word of hope.**



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch-es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
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*GREETING

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of hope, you spoke a word of hope to Israel, refugees in search of a home. Renew in us your vision of your people restored. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

READING: **Isaiah 9:1-7**

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. ²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

*ANTHEM OF THE DAY

Hear the Call of the Kingdom

*APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

....Zealous God, **C: Hear our prayer.**

Into your gracious hands we place all our prayers, on behalf of a world seeking your grace. Through Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*OFFERING

*OFFERING PRAYER

We offer these gifts in response to the word of hope you continue to speak. Allow us to hear your word that inspires us to give of ourselves for the sake of your beloved children. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

*LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God promised a savior, **and then sent his son, Jesus, who is named "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."**

Jesus did come to save, **and we share in his blessing when we share the meal of forgiveness and salvation.** Come, the table is set.

*COMMUNION

The body of Christ given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ shed for you. **Amen.**

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you so much for worshiping with us today!

*BLESSING

The God of Hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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*DISMISSAL

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*POSTLUDE

Thank you to all our worship service volunteers. Your time and talents make HCLC a better place of worship and reflection, of community and love, of life. Anyone who would like to volunteer, please sign up on the clipboard located at the church entrance or use the sign-up genius button on our website or E-News.

Mail it Mondays Ministry

We are starting something new at HCLC called Mail it Mondays Ministry. As you exit you will find a basket of cards and envelopes. Take a card today, write a note, and mail it Monday to someone you've been thinking about. You could also make your own card or sit with your kids or grandkids and have them make a card. Help them write a note. What a great way to respond to our mission "Reach Out, Share Christ with All"! Share this idea on social media using #mailitmondays #halfwaycreeklutheranchurch #reachoutsharechristwithall.

Worship Leader: Pastor Chris; **Worship Accompanist:** Lynn Wegner

Birthdays this week: 21: Aspen Balow, Hannah Noel-Bouchard 23: Kathy Johnson 25: Marjorie Lee 27: Steve Lee



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

Christmas Eve Worship & RSVP

The seasons of Advent and Christmas are quickly approaching! Planning a Christmas worship schedule during a time of rising COVID cases has provided another year of worship planning challenges for the Music and Liturgy team.

With much consideration, the Music and Liturgy team has decided to offer two 30-minute Christmas Eve worship services: one at 2 pm and one at 3:30 pm. In order to do our part in protecting the most vulnerable among us, we will require masks, allow for physical distance in the pews, use sanitizer, take communion at our seats, and sanitize the pews in between services. In addition, we are limiting seating in the sanctuary to 50 people per each service.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! WE ARE ASKING YOU TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT FOR CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP, FIRST-COME, FIRST SERVE BY NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12TH. If both services fill up, we will add a 3rd service at 4:30 pm, and we need time to find worship volunteers and communicate an addition to the planned worship schedule.

Here is how you can reserve your spot:

Sign up via the Sign-Up Genius Christmas Eve RSVP link posted in the weekly e-news, on the www.halfwaycreek.org website, and our Face-

book page.

Sign up on Sunday morning on the paper sign-up sheets located by the sanctuary doors.

Call the office at 608-526-3701 and speak with Shari, our office assistant. Email Shari at assistant@halfwaycreek.org

Note: If you are signed up as a worship leader (lector, AV tech, usher, etc) you do NOT need to include yourself in the total.

An online Christmas Eve Worship Service will also be available for those preferring to worship at home.

IN ADDITION, PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL ONLY OFFER ONLINE WORSHIP FOR CHRISTMAS DAY AND SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26TH.

We understand that our worship schedule and services offered may not meet everyone's preferences so we ask your patience and understanding during this challenging time. We are just grateful for the opportunity to gather in person this year to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

Together in Christ, The Music and Liturgy Team

The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem

Join us during and after worship for a 5 week study as Adam Hamilton travels with us from Nazareth to Bethlehem in this fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, Nov. 21 - Christ the King

Poinsettia Orders Due

9:00 a.m. Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Educational Series:
Faith in the News - all are welcome!

11:00 a.m. First Communion Class

Wednesday, Nov. 24

Virtual Thanksgiving Eve service

No Confirmation Class

Thursday, Nov. 25

Happy Thanksgiving

Community meals offered in Onalaska and La Crosse

Sunday, Nov. 28 - First Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Worship

9:45 a.m. *The Journey, Walking the Road to Bethlehem*

No Sunday School or First Communion classes

Announcements

During worship, we will continue to respect each other by allowing for physical distance in the pews, wearing a mask, using sanitizer and taking communion at our seat.

Giving at HCLC

Giving at HCLC has been made even easier. You can now go directly to Paypal and search for Halfway Creek Lutheran church. Or scan this QR code. Thank you for helping us further our mission to Reach Out and Share Christ with All.



Additional Information

November 24 Thanksgiving Eve Virtual Service. This service is in collaboration with Holmen Lutheran Church, Journey Lutheran Church and HCLC. The link for the service will be shared on Facebook and our website at www.halfwaycreek.org.

November 28, December 5, 12 and 19: Advent Series during and after worship: *The Journey, Walking the Road to Bethlehem*



**Confirmation
Students
QR code for
Worship Notes
Form**

