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# Halfway Creek

LUTHERAN CHURCH

W6016 COUNTY RD. W  
HOLMEN, WI 54636

***November 28, 2021 –9:00 a.m.***



*1st Sunday  
of Advent*

Welcome to Worship Service  
*The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem*  
Chapter One: Mary of Nazareth

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

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

All creation holds its breath. **The time is almost here.**

The heavenly choir of angels waits for its cue to sing. **Excitement is all around us.**

Prepare your hearts-The grace of God takes on human form. **Good news! Emmanuel, God-with-us, comes to us.**

We gather to make ready our hearts **for the coming of Christ, our hope.**

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

**We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.**

Gathering Song: *My Soul Does Magnify the Lord*

### \*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

**Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may celebrate aright the commemoration of the Nativity, and may await with joy the coming in glory of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## READING: **Luke 1:26-38**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to

her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

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

## REFLECTION

\*ANTHEM OF THE DAY

*Be Born in Me*

\*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

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

We have asked, and you have heard. Surround all those for whom we pray with your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

Come to Christ's banquet.

Feast on God's gift of grace.

\*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

God the Creator who delights in you, Jesus the Savior who is born for you, and the lifegiving Spirit who shines on you, + bless you and keep you in hope and peace. **Amen.**

\*SENDING SONG

## He Came Down



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have peace; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.  
he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

\*DISMISSAL

You are the body of Christ. Go now, fed and forgiven, to be signs of Christ coming to the world.

**Thanks be to God.**

\*POSTLUDE



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

*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.*

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

**Birthdays this week:** November—29: Zach Gordon, Colten Lee 30: Rylan Hendrickson, Jill Noel, Chesney Plomedahl; December—1: Justin Happel 2: Maddy Arendt, Karsen Nelson 3: Matt Payne 4: Alice Jackson

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## 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 12<sup>TH</sup>. If both services fill up, we will add a 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.halfwaycreek.org) website, and our Facebook 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](mailto: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 26<sup>TH</sup>.

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!

Join us next week!  
Second Sunday of Advent  
The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem  
Chapter Two: Joseph of Bethlehem



“God favors the humble rather than the proud. God’s greatest work in our lives may be difficult and challenging, and we may never receive recognition or the praise of others, but we are called to serve anyway, seeking to serve anyway, seeing nothing more than God’s satisfaction and glory.” Adam Hamilton, *The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem*, page 55.

## Upcoming Events

### **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

### **Tuesday, Nov. 30**

5:00 p.m. Holmen's Hope monthly dinner at American Legion, Holmen

### **Saturday, Dec. 4**

12:00–6:00 p.m. Jingle Fest Holmen

2:00–6:30 p.m. Sugar Creek Bible Camp Road to Bethlehem: Advent Drive-thru.

### **Sunday, Dec. 5 - Second Sunday of Advent**

9:00 a.m. Worship

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

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. First Communion class

## 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.

Mail it Monday! In response to our mission to "Reach Out, Share Christ With ALL", we are encouraging everyone to send mail. Write a note to someone you haven't seen for a while or that you've thought of recently. Pop the note in the mail!! Share on social media using the hashtags: #mailitmonday #halfwaycreeklutheranchurch #reachoutsharechristwithall.

## 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.



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## Additional Information

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

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

