



# Halfway Creek

LUTHERAN CHURCH

## **CURRENTS**

JANUARY 2022

### ***Reach Out , Share Christ with All***

**From Pastor Chris**

A New Year always bring with it the hope of new beginnings and fresh starts. And this year we find ourselves, yet again and still, desiring the light that moves us ahead to new and better times.

Epiphany is a word that means “manifestation,” or “showing forth,” or “revealing.” It’s the day in the church year when we remember that star the wise men followed and celebrate Jesus being revealed to the world. That star above Bethlehem that brought wise men from the east, reminds us that Christ is the light, breaking into our world, piercing our darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it..

In Germany there is a tiny little town called Herrnhut. The tiniest bit of a little town. It’s name means “the Lord’s hat” or perhaps something more like “under the Lord’s protection.”

In this town, for 160+ years, they have been making and distributing the Moravian star. This star, maybe many of you have one, has been taken and spread across the globe. They were everywhere when I was in Germany, and we have several among our Christmas decorations at home.

The Moravian star recalls the Bethlehem star, that one that brought the wise men to

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the baby Jesus. It is also a symbol of the light of Christ. The Moravian Stars, being spread across the world, show a symbol of the light of Christ to very many people in many places all across the globe.

We bought our stars at the little factory where they are still made. They are still put together by hand, glued if they are the paper ones, by 6 or 7 people there at the factory.

The simple sale and distribution of a Christmastime decoration, originally an Epiphany decoration (and likely a geometry project for schoolchildren), continues to remind us of the light of Christ around the world.

That star made known the one who wise men of the east would come, worship, and bring gifts. It reminds us of hope for new beginnings and fresh starts. It points to the one who brings the hope of God's kingdom on earth – a kingdom of everlasting peace, joy, and love.

This Epiphany season, I encourage you to think about your days as opportunities to share or experience the light of Christ. Where in your place of work, your family, or your friendships can you more brightly let Christ's light can shine through you? Where might you look for Jesus' light coming through others when you really need it?

Like the Moravian star, each of you is a little light which points to the one true light – Jesus Christ – in whom you are baptized, who has saved you, who came as one like you and who knows and loves you beyond what any of us can imagine. His light continues to shine, moving us ahead toward renewed hope, love, peace, and joy.

Walk today as a child of the light. May you experience the light of Christ shining brightly around you this new year, and may Christ shine brightly in your hearts for all to see.

Happy Epiphany!

-Pastor Chris

## Worship and Programming




As we continue our indoor worship and programming, 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 programming 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.

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

### Covid Mitigation Practices for Worship and Programming at Halfway Creek

Number of daily cases   ➡   Our response

0-10	10-50	50+
		
<p>Masked singing; communion options, coffee TBD</p>	<p>Masked singing SENDING song only, communion in pews</p>	<p>Leaders only singing, communion in pews</p>

All procedures assume masking and distancing in worship or programming.  
Numbers reflect La Crosse County daily covid cases/100k population (see covidactnow.org)

**Mark your calendars:  
HCLC Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 6, 2022.**

### **BIBLE STUDY**

The Women's Bible Study group will resume on Thursday, January 20 at 9:30 a.m. We will continue using our book, "We Make the Road by Walking", and will begin with chapter 45, page 226.

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Holley at 608-526-3418.

### **QUILTING IN FEBRUARY**

**Tuesday, February 1, 9:00 a.m.**

Quilters group will start meeting again the first Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. in the Heritage Hall.

### **THANK YOU FROM THE CARING TREE TEAM**

With much gratitude for your support, volunteers and Service Ministry Team members were able to distribute Caring Tree gift cards and care packages on Saturday, December 4th to 79 families (323 recipients) in need within the Holmen School District. Each family received a care package and for each child in a family, two \$25 gift cards (one for clothing item/another for fun item) were given.

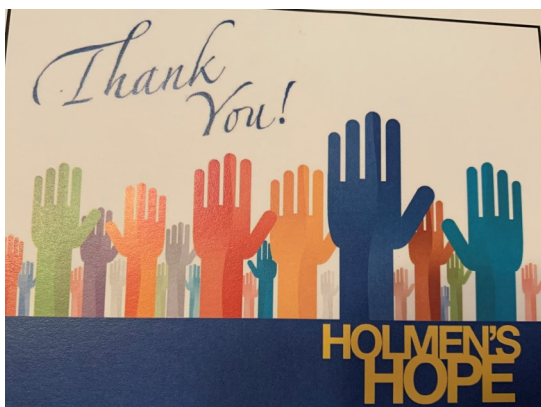
In the spirit of thoughts shared at our December committee meeting, "when you are blessed, you bless others!"

Thanks to each of you for being a blessing to this ministry!

## 2021 GIVING STATEMENTS

A copy of your charitable giving to HCLC will be mailed out to you in late January. If you need a copy before then, please contact the office by emailing: [assistant@halfwaycreek.org](mailto:assistant@halfwaycreek.org) or call (608) 526-3701.

## HOLMEN'S HOPE THANK YOU



To the Members of Halfway Creek Lutheran,

We send heartfelt thanks for your generous donation to Holmen's Hope Backpack program.

Your kindness is a blessing to many!

## FIRST COMMUNION

Congratulations to our First Communion students who completed their instructional classes and were (or will be) welcomed to the Lord's table this season.

**Adelynn Balow, Aspen Balow, Abigail Fredrickson, Noah Lepsch, Sara Oseseck**

*The next course will be held during lent with First Communion on Maundy Thursday Service, April 14, 2022. Contact Shari at [assistant@halfwaycreek.org](mailto:assistant@halfwaycreek.org) to sign up!*

**VISION BOARD MEETING MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 16, 2021**

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

ABSENT: Mike Nedoba, Carolyn Bjerke

**ITEM:**

Call to Order @ 6:32pm

Approval of Agenda - **Jess C made a motion to approved agenda as altered, Gaye seconded, Motion passed**

Approval of October minutes - **Gaye made a Motion to approve the October minutes, Mike M. second, Motion passed**

Devotion/Reflection/Prayer - **Jess Reviewed chapter 2**

Pastor's Report - **Lots of ministry is happening.**

Financial Report - **Jess C made a motion to approve the financial report as Mike presented, Gaye seconded, motion passed.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mounting the TV – update **Alex was told to contact Pastor or Lynn.**

Review Covid procedures - **Same as previous months since numbers are not good.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

War against mice – **Gaye 1st year is donated by an anonymous person to fight the war against the mice, next year will have to be in the budget for 2023. Motion made by Jess C, to go ahead with the war against the mice and plan for 2023 Budget. Mike N seconded, motion passed**

Christmas Services - **Discussed Christmas survey and the RSVP's for 2 & 3:30 services.**

Vision Board Members – nominations - **Is there anybody that can think of someone that wants to join. Discussion on the process.**

Budget - **Mtg December 5th @ 3:30pm, got moved to 6:00pm**

Annual Meeting - 1st Sunday of February which is the 6th

General Reports (was added to agenda)-

Closing Prayer

Adjournment @8:20pm

Next meeting(s):

Thursday December 9, 2021 6:30pm – Regular Vision Board Meeting

Budget Meeting - TBD **December 5th @6:00pm All but Carolyn were in attendance for the budget meeting, a couple of areas are to be discussed at the Vision board meeting because some more information was needed.**

### 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*

<b>November</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Y-T-D Budget</b>	<b>Y-T-D Actual</b>
Expense	15,807	13,574.50	174,168.00	155,585.65
General Fund	15,833	15,476.54	174,167.00	177,186.25
Debt Reduction		2,414.00		7,903.00

### HCLC Committee Members



Please submit your reports for the Annual Report no later than January 10. The annual report will be completed mid-month and ready for distribution prior to the Annual Meeting on February 6. Thank you in advance for your timely submission. - Shari assistant@halfwaycreek.org.



## ELCA Youth Gathering 2022 July 24-28 Minneapolis, MN

Calling all 8th to 12th graders at HCLC! Are you interested in attending?? Every **three** years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the ELCA gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. HCLC youth that may be interested in attending this year should email Shari at [assistant@halfwaycreek.org](mailto:assistant@halfwaycreek.org) by January 15, 2022. Adults over 21 interested in chaperoning should also email the office.

### Halfway Creek Lutheran Church celebrated 165 years of ministry in 2021!

We made a video to commemorate this milestone!



This historical documentary - adapted from a sermon given in 2012 by Hannah Scholze - explores the principles passed down by some of HCLC's founding and influential pastors. This is a congregation rooted in the past and growing to the future, with its mission "Reach Out, Share Christ with All."

Watch for the video link in future emails and on our Website this month. You may also find it ready to view on our YouTube channel!



## What's Happening in January

### Weekly:

**Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.**

**Sunday School 9:45 a.m**

**Education/Fellowship 9:45 a.m.**

**Saturday, Jan. 1—Happy New Year**

**Sunday, Jan. 2** — Resume worship. No Sunday School.

6:00 p.m. Heritage Hall in use by 4H

**Sunday, Jan. 9**

9:45 a.m. Sunday School resumes

**Monday, Jan. 10**

Information for Annual Report Due

**Thursday, Jan. 13**

6:00 p.m. Vision Board

**Saturday, Jan. 15**

RSVP for ELCA Youth Gathering

**Monday, Jan. 17**

Articles for February Currents due

**Thursday, Jan. 20**

9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study

**Tuesday, Jan. 25**

5:00 p.m. Holmen's Hope Community dinner

6:30 p.m. Faith+Full+Life monthly meeting

**Tuesday, Feb 1**

9:00 a.m. Quilters group

**Sunday, Feb 6**

After Worship: Annual Meeting

6:00 p.m. Heritage Hall in use by 4H



## Confirmation

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

Thank you to those who've volunteered to walk with our youth in this amazing ministry as small group leaders. If you'd also like to help or contribute, contact Shari at [assistant@halfwaycreek.org](mailto:assistant@halfwaycreek.org) or 608-526-3701.

## Worship Team Rehearsals:

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.





## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>23</b>
Tuck Kinsman	Paula Hammes	Mary Jane Nelson	Kathie Severson
<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>25</b>
John Noel	Noah Lepsch	Trevor Plomedahl	Chance Brandau
Carrie Payne	Dewey Crocker	Lisa Betsinger	JJ Ouellette
<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>26</b>
Mia Bartnik	Lonnie Oines	Joy Jandt	Erica Nichols
<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>27</b>
Keith Casberg	Edward Scholze	Jordyn Stasiak	Melissa Noth
Audrey Clark	Jordyn Schreiber	Tammy Howe	Matt Rink
Petra Nedoba	<b>13</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>7</b>	Mathew Barbour	Donna Anderson	Bristol Pralle
John Stasiak	Robert Lee	<b>22</b>	<b>28</b>
	Zachary Mueller	Rylend Tuquero	Ethan Heiser
			Corey Hendrickson



*We pray for 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, Milden Schwanebeck, Kathy Johnson, Zach Mossman, Marie Jezova*

**Help us keep our prayer list updated.**

*Please call or email the office this month to keep your name or your loved one's name on the prayer list. Please let us know if there is anyone we should add. Thank you!*

## SERVING AND WORSHIP

		SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	OFFERING COUNTERS
<b>JAN 2</b>	9 0 0	Mike Martin Morgan Jostad	Carrie Payne Nicole Stumlin	Rhonda Britton Sonja Nelson
<b>JAN 9</b>	9 0 0	Stan Schwier VOLUNTEER	Karla Johnson Diane Jostad	Bette Pedretti Susan Jostad
<b>JAN 16</b>	9 0 0	Archie Achterkirch VOLUNTEER	Nancy Holley Diane Jostad	Jodi Eide Mike Nedoba
<b>JAN 23</b>	9 0 0	David Bringe David Chase	Barb Hale Bette Pedretti	Volunteer Volunteer
<b>JAN 30</b>	9 0 0	Archie Achterkirch Morgan Jostad	Diane Jostad	Mike Martin John Daily

### Volunteer to help at Worship

**Use Sign-up Genius button on the website or E-News; call the office or email [assistant@halfwaycreek.org](mailto: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!**



Halfway Creek Lutheran Church  
608-526-3701  
www.halfwaycreek.org

### **OFFICE HOURS**

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

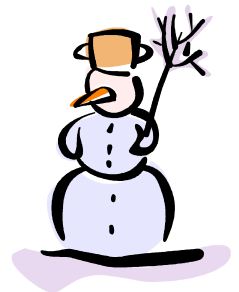
### **PASTORAL CARE**

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

@halfwaycreeklutheranchurchholmen  
#halfwaycreeklutheranchurch  
#reachoutsharechristwithall



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