



# Halfway Creek

LUTHERAN CHURCH

## **CURRENTS**

FEBRUARY 2022

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

[From Pastor Chris](#)

In February our worship texts continue to follow Jesus' life and ministry in John's gospel. During this month, as we look forward to Lent, we hear in the stories Jesus' invitation to abundant life.

Jesus' ministry continues as he calls those around him into new life. Each interaction reveals more about Jesus' identity and the promises of God, as well as God's desire for all to know abundant life. From invitations to be born anew through the Spirit, to promises of living water, these encounters with Jesus leave the individuals changed and further illustrate Jesus' purpose and ministry of bringing life to all.

As we walk through John's gospel the stories we experience are: John 4:1-42 - The woman at the well: Jesus broke down barriers throughout his ministry.

John 4:46-54 and 5:1-18 - Healing stories: Jesus healed many people, not just their bodies, but in all areas of wellness.

John 6:35-59 - Jesus proclaimed that he is "the bread of life." Although people had trouble understanding, Jesus' invitation is clear: He is the bread of life and we are invited to partake.

[Cont'd from page 1](#)

John 7:37-52 - Jesus said, "Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water." Jesus is that living water and he invites, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me."

John 9:1-41 - Jesus challenged the Pharisees' beliefs, inviting them - and us - to grow in faith and understanding.

Invitation is a fitting theme to prelude the season of Lent. As we hear the message of Jesus beckon us to come and see, to come and experience, to come and enter into this walk with him, let us get ready to heed that invitation as we begin our Lenten journeys.

Jesus and his message bring abundant life to those most in need of it. That might happen for you as you engage in a Lenten discipline, or take part in a study. God's word works on us internally as we gather together with other followers around the scriptures and hear again the stories of Jesus' life and work, his death and resurrection. God's word also works through us in the world as we rise to meet the challenges of life each day. It takes root in the world as God's people live out the gospel in action and policy to make abundant life a reality for all people around us.

This month my prayer for you is that you find from God's Word an invitation to abundant life – an invitation to experience God's love for yourself and those around you; May you find the invitation to see that you are loved; the invitation to see yourself as a precious child of God, just as you are; the invitation to see that you are worthy of love and respect; the invitation to see that you are capable of making a positive difference in the world; and the invitation to experience that all as you walk with Jesus.

May you live out your faith vibrantly this season, working toward abundant life for all those around you, and knowing the love of Christ in your life.

-Pastor Chris




## Worship and Programming

As we continue our indoor 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.

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 Programing at Halfway Creek**  
 Number of daily cases ➡ Our response

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

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

**Please attend:**

**HCLC Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 6, 2022, after worship.**

## **BIBLE STUDY**

The Women's Bible Study group will meet the third Thursday of the month—February 17 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**

**Tuesdays 9:00 a.m.**

Quilters group will start meeting again on Tuesdays in February and March at 9:00 a.m. in the Heritage Hall.

## **HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH CEMETERY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING**

The Halfway Creek Lutheran Church Cemetery Association Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 13, immediately following the Sunday worship service.

The meeting will be held in the gathering area. Due to Covid last year, we will have two years' worth of reports, budget, and trustees to be approved. It has been suggested that the by-laws be updated to offer the Halfway Creek Lutheran Church Cemetery Annual Meeting to immediately follow the Halfway Creek Lutheran Church Annual Meeting to meet quorum numbers.

All members of Halfway Creek Lutheran Church as well as owners of grave sites are members of Halfway Creek Lutheran Church Cemetery Association. If you have any questions please contact Raymond Lee, 608-526-3900/608-769-6964.

## THANK YOU

To the Members of Halfway Creek Lutheran,

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help clean our church building while Rich is enjoying a wonderful vacation! Many hands make the work load light. Thanks to everyone else for tidying up while in the building and before you leave. We are so fortunate to have such a beautiful building and worship space. May God continue to bless it and you!

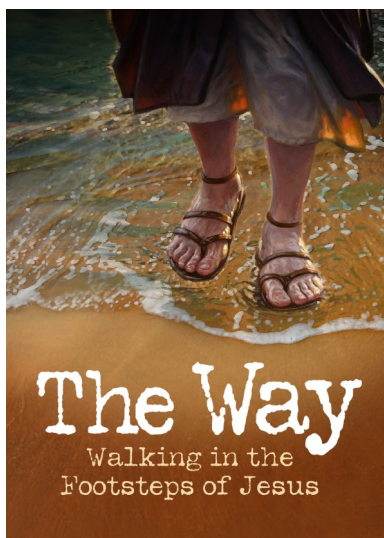
## FIRST COMMUNION

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

## ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2, with Service at 6:00 p.m. Worship will be in-person with a recorded service on our website, Facebook and YouTube channel.

## LENTEN WORSHIP SERIES AND BOOK STUDY



Join us at worship and after during Lent as we follow Adam Hamilton's journey in the book [The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus.](#)

You may order a copy of the book (\$12) and devotional (\$10). Please place your order by February 7 by calling the office or emailing Shari—[assistant@halfwaycreek.org](mailto:assistant@halfwaycreek.org).

**When:** Wednesdays and Sundays of Lent - March 2—April 10, 2022.

**Time:** Wednesdays 6:00 p.m.; Sundays 9:00 a.m.

## **VISION BOARD MEETING MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 9, 2021**

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

**TIME:**

6:30

**ITEM:**

Call to Order -6:35pm  
Approval of Agenda-Mike N/Mike M approved  
Approval of November minutes -Gaye J/Diane J approved  
Devotion/Reflection/Prayer- Prayer from Pastor Chris  
Pastor's Report- Submitted  
Financial Report - Mike N/Gaye - approved

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mounting the TV - update -TV is mounted - SIMS came out to find a broken piece, that will not allow TV in narthex to work - waiting on a bid for repairs

Review Covid procedures - No changes to protocols

Vision Board Members - nominations - We need to find new Vision Board members/nominations

Annual Meeting - will be Sunday February 6th - time to be determined, and announcements will be made at least 2 weeks prior

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Personnel Discussions - Motion to go into closed session - Diane/Gaye - motion approved

Motion to come out of closed session - 8:48pm - Gaye/Diane - approved

Motion to not offer an additional raise beyond Synod guideline stipulations Gaye/Mike N - approved

Motion to approve Exhibit E (Synod Guidelines for salary & benefits), for Pastor's salary - Mike N/Gaye - approved

Motion to approve Pastor Chris' Housing Allowance/Allocation for 2022

**Closing Prayer** – The Lord's Prayer

**Adjournment** – 9:06pm

**Next meeting(s):**

Thursday January 13, 2022 6:30pm – Regular Vision Board Meeting

### 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](mailto: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>December</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Y-T-D Budget</b>	<b>Y-T-D Actual</b>
Expense	15,807	14,344.09	189,975.00	170,598.25
General Fund	15,833	20,742.23	190,000.00	197,928.48
Debt Reduction		645.00		8,548.00



## 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 the video on our website or YouTube channel! Go to: [www.halfwaycreek.org](http://www.halfwaycreek.org), click on Resources, click on History.

## 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.

## What's Happening?

Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Education/Fellowship 9:45 a.m.

### FEBRUARY

#### Tuesday, Feb 1

9:00 a.m. Quilters group-Tuesdays through March

#### Sunday, Feb 6

After Worship: Annual Meeting

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

#### Thursday, Feb. 10

6:30 p.m. Vision Board meeting

#### Thursday, Feb. 17

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

#### Monday, Feb. 21

Currents articles Deadline

#### Tuesday, Feb. 22

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

6:30 p.m. Faith+Full+Life at Journey

### MARCH

#### Tuesday, March 1

9:00 a.m. Quilters

#### Wednesday, March 2

6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

SATURDAY, FEB 5, 7:00 PM

SUNDAY, FEB 6, 2:00 PM

FRIENDSHIP FIRST

COMMUNITY CENTER



## AREA EVENT

The Blair Friendship First Community Center

Fundraiser featuring:

### The Looney Lutherans

February 5 at 7:00 p.m.

February 6 at 2:00 p.m.

Performance tickets available at area I libraries: Arcadia, Galesville, Taylor, Blair, Osseo, Whitehall or on the Friendship First Facebook page.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Alexa Shisler</p> <p><b>2</b></p> <p>LeRoy Holley</p> <p><b>7</b></p> <p>Lee Thoma</p> <p><b>8</b></p> <p>Judy Casberg</p> <p>Finnigan Tiffany</p> <p><b>10</b></p> <p>Matthew Tolvstad</p> <p><b>11</b></p> <p>Jodi Lee</p> <p>Lee Lohrentz</p> <p>Sonja Nelson</p> <p>Matthew Page</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Donald Graham</p> <p>Brayden Wanie</p> <p><b>13</b></p> <p>David Bringe</p> <p>Erin Bringe</p> <p>Cassie Noel</p> <p>Carter Thiele</p> <p><b>14</b></p> <p>Whitney Happel</p> <p>Susan Jostad</p> <p>Theodore Latham</p> <p><b>15</b></p> <p>Savannah Horstman</p> <p>Jesse Plomedahl</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Jaxson Happel</p> <p><b>19</b></p> <p>Vivianna Yahnke-Kolbo</p> <p><b>20</b></p> <p>Heidi Rosenow</p> <p><b>21</b></p> <p>Megan Page</p> <p>Maison Payne</p> <p><b>22</b></p> <p>Ellie Adam</p> <p><b>23</b></p> <p>Cailyn Schreiber</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Tara Heiser</p> <p>William Miller</p> <p>Noah Oines</p> <p><b>27</b></p> <p>Bambi Daily</p> <p><b>28</b></p> <p>Josie Happel</p>
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*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, Mildred 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>FEB 6</b>	9 00	Mike Martin Morgan Jostad	Carrie Payne Nicole Stumlin	Rhonda Britton Sonja Nelson
<b>FEB 13</b>	9 00	Stan Schwier VOLUNTEER	Karla Johnson Diane Jostad	Bette Pedretti Susan Jostad
<b>FEB 20</b>	9 00	Archie Achterkirch VOLUNTEER	Nancy Holley Diane Jostad	Jodi Eide Mike Nedoba
<b>FEB 27</b>	9 00	David Bringe David Chase	Barb Hale Bette Pedretti	Richard Granum Diane Jostad

### **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](http://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](mailto: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

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

